

day on Christmas - Matt, an Australian cowboy hat (\$70!) but he was thrilled & he loves it (and it was on sale!) Ialmage - marble works & an ice cream maker, Morgan - large legos & a ball-kicking game - he loves it. They all got books, pj's, sweats, games, watches & ^{all the} toys - incl. Morgan - got basketball! They all seemed very pleased & happy with their gifts.

Oh - last week Mike got a letter from Gary Ames, the president of US West, saying he has been chosen as a leader of the 90's & they're giving him 250 stock options - worth \$10000 right now, but they aren't really his for 3 years. Sticky way of keeping him! But it's quite an honor for him & he felt really good about it.

Judy & John stopped on their way home to Calif. & it was fun to see them & visit. Judy was sick the whole week she was in Idaho, so altho I saw her, we didn't do much, & she slept most the time. They got home tonight (Sun 30th) OK.

Morgan gave me the absolutely very best present I think I've ever received in my life - he potty trained himself the last 2 weeks! He had been going stinky in pants or pull-ups (disposable training pants.) Joyce & I suggested I put real big boy pants on - he loves 'em & hates to have a diaper on at night! If he can pull his pants down, he'll go in, go to the bathroom, wipe & flush without me even knowing. He can't put his pants back on yet, & he loves to run around bare. I bet he hasn't had more than 10 accidents in the 2 weeks we've put pants on him - and none since about Saturday! It's great - just the way I've always thought toilet training should be, and never never has! I love it. Yes a letter.

January 1, 1991

Dear Diary,

Well, here we are, another year gone by already, & I haven't accomplished a thing - my major goals for the year are the same as they've been for the last 16 of my life: viz: get in better shape physically; ~~sex~~ (exercise and eat right); spiritually - scriptures & prayer daily; emotionally - be more positive & cheerful, better wife and mother; mentally - learn new things, take some classes, and learn to be a better housekeeper! And get out of debt! We've never made more money - \$80,000 this past year - or been more in debt - \$18,000, not including house!! So we really need to work hard. I'm confident we can do it - ~~FF~~ Mike gets a great bonus and pay raise!! I'm really looking forward to this year - I'm very optimistic that it is going to be a good year (I hope I don't get pregnant!!)

January 6, 1991

Today we finished the Book of Mormon as a family! We started it in 1987 - October! Wo! We really zipped right along. I think we'll do better this year. Our goal - to read the whole thing every year! Today I was released as Spiritual Living Teacher & made Homemaking ^{Department} Committee Chairman. I felt pretty bad - but I'm sure I'll survive. I loved that job - it really helped me get into the scriptures. Plus, I really enjoy Teaching Relief Society.

January 13-15

Mom & Dad & Vicki came down - Mom & Dad to get an apartment, Vicki to get away! Monday 14th was her birthday - we did genealogy all day & it was so neat! We found her father-in-law's grandmother - he didn't even know her name! Mike took us to lunch at the Lion House. Tuesday we moved Mom & Dad in to their TINY apartment - & went shopping at

Jan 5-16, 1991

Price Savers & the Distribution Center. When we got home, I noticed my diamond had fallen out of my setting! We searched everywhere - even back to Dad's apartment. No luck. I felt bad, but realize it's only a rock!

January 16, 1991

WAR

Last Saturday, the Congress of the United States gave President Bush authority to use ^{military} forces to force Saddam Hussein, Iraq's president, to withdraw from Kuwait, the small nation he overran last fall. Today, the first shots were fired, from airplanes flying over Iraq. Our neighbor, Mike Sutherland, has been sent to Germany to staff the hospital in Frankfurt. It's really scary, but apparently, the first wave has been very successful.

January 25, 1991 Matthew George Williams

10!

See, Matthew is 10 years old! That means we've lived in Utah almost 10 years! Matthew is growing up so much - he's about the same size as Aaron - they both wear size 12. Matthew is such a cute boy - he's acting much better lately - he doesn't have that many screaming fits any more!

His best friend is Derek Beutler; they do a lot of fun things together. He has Mr. Marshall for his 4th grade teacher - Matt really likes him and is doing super in school.

He's not quite as neat and orderly as he used to be - he tends to throw his stuff in piles - but if he wants it clean, he can do a really good job.

We took the family and Derek to a movie & had pizza. We let Derek sleep over I think he had fun.

Feb 3, 1991

*later reports - it was US fire that accidentally killed the marines.



My mom & dad moved down here on Friday to start their 2nd mission! They're on a mission for the Family History. My mom's real excited - I'm not too sure about Dad, tho. He's feeling pretty lousy lately. His feet have really been hurting too. They moved into a tiny little apartment - it's like a newlywed apartment! But it's looking better as they get settled. I'm really excited to have them down here for a year!

The war is still going strong - we've had casualties and POW's. It's really scary, but still almost exclusively an air war. The ground troops have only been involved once - and 12 marines died. Some Iraqi tanks were approaching US troops with their guns pointed backwards - traditionally a signal of surrender - when our marines went to take prisoners, they opened fire and killed all 12. One was from Louisville. Pretty disgusting. Everyone says Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq & the cause of all this bloodshed, is crazy and desperate. He opened some oil pipeline valves and let millions of gallons of oil into the sea - the biggest oil slick in history. He set fire to oil & polluted the skies - the pilots couldn't see for bombing. He is an evil man, but certainly seems to be doing some amazing things. Clever, even, but scary in their far reaching consequences. Today, the 1st Presidency has asked we all fast and pray for a cessation of hostilities in the gulf.

Mike's been feeling lousy lately - he went to the doctor & had his cholesterol level checked - it's really high again - 288. So he is seriously watching what he eats - which means, of course, that I have to watch what he eats. A week and a half ago, I took one whole day and cooked and cooked! I made 13 meals & stuck them in the freezer. So I haven't cooked in 10 days! The food had been really good, but definitely not low fat, so I have to figure out something else for Mike. Next time I'll plan the food like that, so we can all eat the same. Sure wouldn't hurt me to go non-fat!

February 25, 1991

Brett Michael Williams turned 14 today! He is getting so tall - almost as tall as me! And he eats (or wants to eat) all the time. The bad thing is he wants JUNK food with a capital J! He loves pop, skittles, ice cream, chips, cookies, etc. It worries me that whenever he gets a little money, he spends it on candy. What to do? It's his money, his earned! Last year, Brett's grades were terrible. Last term he got all A's & 1 B+! So we were very grateful that he finally turned it around. He's so smart!! I really worry about Brett and his attitude toward life. He's always bugging somebody & making them sad! Aaron is always putting in a good word for Brett & trying to help Brett, & Brett is always walking all over Aaron. It makes me sick. I really do love Brett, & I can see a lot of potential in Brett, but he makes me just want to scream! There are times when I am trying to reason with him, or discipline him, or just plain talk to him, and I can feel my stomach just tying up in knots and acid flowing inside me - it makes me physically sick and emotionally exhausted. For his Birthday, we & Grandma + he got a really nice \$150 coat on sale 1/2 price. Well, the week before his birthday I wouldn't take him to the mall to get it - I had to leave, & he was mad so he kicked the couch - Mike reprimanded him & we left. Then Michelle told him something that made him mad, so he kicked the pantry door & cracked one of the panels. It just made me sick when I saw it the next day. I feel that Mike's too mean; he thinks I'm too nice, so I think we each go too far our own way. And I think Brett plays us against each other. I'm worried - I think we may need to get counseling before something irreparable happens. One of Brett's favorite sayings is "I hate this place." It just makes me want to howl - maybe that's why he does it. The scariest thing to me is to see Matthew & Judage acting just like him! No. I can't live through it for 12-20 more years!

oops → Feb 12, 1991

Morgan Floyd Williams turned 3 years old today! It is absolutely amazing that he's already 3. He is such a doll! And even though he is SPOILED ROTTEN!! we all love him dearly. He likes me to help him carry his high chair over to the table, & he says "I'm stron, huh mom!"

He's a funny kid- he HATES bandaids, cold cereal, & me singing! Whenever I sing he says "no singin mom!" even in church- or wherever! He loves hot cereal- oatmeal, cream of wheat, whatever. He's really good about taking medicine. He takes a nap pretty good if I lay down and "read a book" to him- he especially loves "Fyle, the Crocodile" and say it along with me. He's still a great mimic- and can say the prayers all by himself- it's so cute. He's getting pretty good in sacrament meeting- especially if the older kids leave him alone. A couple of weeks ago, there was some time left, so Mike was expounding on something. Right during a crucial phrase, Morgan yelled "Shut-up!" at one of the boys who was bugging him. Real cute.

Morgan loves to watch tv. Sometimes I worry about him. He likes a Christmas Mickey Mouse special, & I borrow Cinderella a lot from Ericksons. He goes through stages when he likes the same show over & over, then he rarely watches it. He loves to make his own peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for lunch, but he usually eats enough of the stuff while he's making it, that he doesn't eat the sandwich! We gave him a Fisher Price bike for his birthday. The only one I could find was purple & red & everybody says it's a girl's- but he doesn't care. He likes it, but hasn't learned to pedal. He loves to escape & go outside. Often he goes to see "Air-cakes" as he calls our neighbor, Joyce Erickson. When I pull shirts over his head, he says "I'm ok I'm ok" when he's

Concerned about someone, he says "Are you OK?"
Whenever someone is putting his shoes on him,
he says "Cinderella" I bought him 3 puzzles
for his birthday - he loves to do them & although
he needs a little help, he has a really good eye for
where things go. He does real well with potty training,
but has some bad days. He's often dry in the
mornings, but I haven't gotten brave enough to leave
the diapers off yet. Oh - another thing he really
hates is having his hair combed. I washed! & I
comb it, he messes it up even worse. On Sundays,
though, he lets me spruce him up & he looks so
adorable. He's so cute to fold his arms during the
prayer whenever we are - even if I don't tell him.
He really is a doll, & we love him a lot!

Butt cont - I've really got to be firm but kind! I've
really been trying to not let him weasel out of stuff.
He sneers & mocks & mimics & makes fun of the other
kids until I could scream! I usually do. He usually
does whatever he pleases & to heck with what I want him
to do. He is so glad to do whatever HE wants to do! And
he can be so nice if he knows he'll get what he wants out
of it. It worries me that I'm teaching him to manipulate
people by telling him if he acts like I want him to, then
he'll get what he wants!


March 10, 1991

So much has happened lately - the war ended on Feb 28 - 6 weeks after the air bombardment started, and 100 hours after the ground war began. The U.S. only had about 30 casualties, including 28 from a sea missile attack the day before it ended. When the marines took Kuwait city, they found the city ruined, but the Kuwaiti people joyous over their liberation. It was such a rout it was almost funny - once the U.S. troops penetrated the "impenetrable" barriers, the Iraqi troops fled - or surrendered. We saw TV footage of Iraqi's passing ^{the} soldiers' feet, hands, faces, and surrendering by the thousands. They were poorly clad, nearly starving, & in some instances had been placed between mines and the front, so they couldn't run away. The army had so many POW's they didn't know what to do with them. Hussein finally accepted defeat, but announced to his people that he had beaten the allied troops - now there's a lot of civil unrest & apparently we are arming the dissidents who are fighting against Saddam Hussein! So it's mixed up & messy, & I feel sorry for the normal people who have to live there. It's been really neat to see how the nation has pulled together - there've been yellow ribbons and flags EVERYWHERE! Judy told me they're all over L.A., too! And many times, the President of the U.S. & other leaders have asked the nation to pray - it's been so neat. Our neighbor, Mike Sutherland, has been in Germany, & Raline his wife, said she heard today he might be home in a couple of weeks. So that's really exciting.

One March 6, Wednesday we had our homemaking R's Birthday party. I was in charge of the dinner, so we had stew & homemade bread - it was wonderful! We decorated it with pioneer quilts & lamps & dolls - it turned out so neat!

The next morning we had to be at Primary Children's hospital at 6 am! The week before, Talmage came home from school & told me the "thingy down by his privates was really big!". So I checked it out, & sure enough, his scrotum was really swollen. I took him to the doctor & he sent us to a urologist. He said it was a hydrocele and a hernia, & we needed to fix it! So we went to PCN and had it done. They were really neat couple of funny things. He had these drawstring pj's on, & we were in a playroom waiting for the doctor. He stood up, & his pants fell down. It was a classic grab your pants & look around to see if anybody saw you. Only Talmage & I saw & we laughed & laughed! Also, we were telling him why they took a blood sample & trying to explain blood types. I said, "just like Dad has brown eyes & I have blue eyes, Dad has A+ blood & I have O+." Talmage said, then I have blood like you because I have blue eyes like you!" Then, after surgery, he said, when he woke up, he felt like "Whuhuhuhuh!" as he wobbled his head back & forth, & rolled his eyes. Also, after about an hour, I said, "Well, Talmage, at least you've got some color in your cheeks!" At that, he puffed out his cheeks & looked down. Since he couldn't see anything, he said "what color are they?" I said "green" & Mike said "purple"! It was really funny. He did fine, but threw up just as I drove in the garage. He slept all afternoon.

March 15, 1991

Jalmage's 7th Birthday

Jalmage is such a cute, funny, generally happy little boy! If I had to choose one word to describe him, I'd say "inquisitive." He asks where's & where-fore's of everything! Today was a fun day for him. He had his first birthday party! 5 little boys came over & played games, opened presents, & ate cake & ice cream. I think he really enjoyed it. I gave him a "micro-machines" little tiny car garage & an etch-a-sketch, a few cars, & clothes.

Daddy says "intelligent, inquisitive & forthright." Jalmage has recovered really well from his operation - he wasn't supposed to ride his bike for 2 weeks, & he was riding it the Saturday after his surgery. What a kid! He really likes school - he's reading ~~is~~ really good! He even reads scriptures with us (sometimes, when I can wake him up!!) He loves to ride his bike. His best friend is still Justin Bagnell - the 5 year old next door who looks like an angel and acts just the opposite! Jalmage never gets into trouble unless he's with Justin - which seems silly, because he's 2 years older than Justin! Orwell! They get along and have fun.

Jalmage is usually a cute, loving little kid. Once in a while, though, he throws quite a temper tantrum & screams "No!!!" He hates work! And he hates Sunday!! He always says "I'm havin' a bad day" because I put such restrictions on him.

Sometimes he really wants to help me - he will really get on a helpful binge and really clean - and do a good job! He's a sweetheart & I love him - I need to remember that he needs love and personal attention a lot!

April 1, 1991

My 36th Birthday

This has been a really fun birthday weekend. Vicki and her kids came down Thursday, & Vicki, Mike & I went to the temple. Mom had surgery on her feet - they'd been bothering her, so she was in bed. On Friday, we spent some time at Mom's - then came back here to sew. At lunch, Mike came & got me, & we took Bruce Erickson's diamond ring & my setting up to Sheldon Poon's. We got my original diamond from him. He checked out the ring & diamond (it was Bruce's grandfather's, and he wanted to sell it.) We decided to have it mounted on my ring, so Sheldon broke it out of the setting and weighed it - it is 60.pts! And almost colorless - a beautiful white. It does have quite a large carbon speck in it, but you have to look through a microscope to see it. So he said he'd take Bruce's setting to pay for the new crown & mounting! So he won't charge us anything! Bruce, when I went over to get it, told me he'd give me the diamond - +\$200 so he wouldn't have to cement the north side of our house in. (He was planning on doing that for nothing because he drives his cement trucks down the ramp & has the ramp on our yard!) So anyway, I get it tomorrow, I hope. Friday pm went to temple with Ericksons. I get it tomorrow, I hope. Friday pm went to temple with Ericksons.

Saturday we went to Price Savers - Ron came & we did some shopping & finished Michelle's Easter dress. It is so beautiful! I can't believe I made it. Easter was nice - Michelle looked really pretty, Mom & Dad & Vicki & kids all went to church & we had a beautiful dinner!

Today Vicki & I did a little shopping, went & saw Mom & Dad & their work, and ate in the church cafeteria. Then we went to the genealogy library & worked on Ron's lines, but really didn't find very much. We came home to a clean house & wonderful dinner! Mike gave the kids all my cards, & since they were out of school, they did all of the normal Monday jobs. Michelle had made angel food cake too. It was neat. I feel



like I am really grown up, finally. I really do feel that I have matured a lot lately - especially in my perception of myself as wife and mother, and how I really do want to do a good job in my chosen profession. I have been doing the card file organization since January, & it really has helped, but I've been kind of letting it slide lately. One reason is because I sewed a lot on Michelle's dress, & another is one afternoon, around the 20th I think, I had just let Morgan go out to play, & had just checked on him when he fell in Bagnell's window well & cut the top of his head open. I spent the afternoon at the doctor with him, getting stitches. The next week, I took him in to have the stitches put & took Brett to have his ankle checked, because it had been hurting for 3 weeks. He had torn a muscle while playing basketball - Dr. Wilson gave him an anti-inflammatory and told him to stay off it. Anyway! I keep having all these neat little interruptions. BUT! We will overcome! One thing I'd like to do is get in better shape. I just can't seem to prioritize the time I'm getting fatter! I weigh 165 gasp - 6 lbs less than when I went to weight watchers last year! And I look 6 mo pregnant - my stomach hangs out so bad. I've got to lose weight, tighten & tone those muscles. I'd feel a lot better about myself.

Besides the rug, Mike bought me the book "The Complete Phantom of the Opera" & it is really neat. We're going to LA to go to the opera in May & I can't wait! It will be so neat.

So this was a neat birthday & I'm looking forward to the coming year!

Oh, Saturday morning we went to Jim Bender's wedding and it was really a beautiful, moving, spiritual wedding. I was so glad we got to go. Easter seemed especially meaningful to me - It was neat.

April 7, 1991

Sunday - General Conference - Daylight Savings Time!
(Yeah! I hate changing the clocks - it's so stupid!)
The clock now says 11:40 - I went to bed at 10 and
couldn't go to sleep, so at 10:50, I got up & did some
genealogy & writing. This really messes me - & everybody
else - up!!

Anyway, General Conference yesterday & today was
really good, of course. The weather has been just
beautiful lately & my flowers are all coming up so
beautifully. I got my ring back & it is beautiful!
Joyce E. was even surprised at how pretty it is. She
said it's gorgeous! I said, "well, it's a 10 'cow wife' - but
not a 'herd'!" They airbrushed the band so it looks
brand new, too. It is really a beautiful ring, & I'm just
thrilled to death to have it. I asked Joyce if she wanted
it, & she said no - it'd just be in her way! It really is
pretty.

I took Matt to the dr Thursday - I think he's starting to
recognize me! He had a really ugly throat & swollen glands
& slight fever & wouldn't/couldn't talk. He put him on
a strong anti-biotic. He said it wasn't strep, so it needed
more than penicillin. Saturday I started feeling
yucky & sore throat, but it feels better today.

Last Wednesday, at homemaking, I taught a
class on cooking once a month, & it turned out really
good. I got lots of positive comments & had 2 ladies
do it this week! I've done it 3 months, & I love it,
but I do dread cooking day because it's so much
work! It's great the rest of the month tho.

Well, it's 10 to 12, so I should be able to go to sleep now.
Brett said to me today "I hate you guys & this place sucks!"
I slapped his face. I felt so bad. I think we might need
to take him & us in for family counseling. I just don't
know what to do - he's so defiant and negative - about everything.


April 21, 1991

- Sunday -

Last Sunday I was called to be Ward Camp Director! I am kind of excited about it, and think it will be fun. When Mike came home at 6:10 pm, I said, "Gee, I haven't even spoken to you since 6:45 this morning!" To which he replied, "Yes, but we did have some meaningful eye contact in sacrament meeting!" I went to a camp meeting - I think it'll be fun. Friday night, we took the family to surf & swim for Aaron's birthday. It scared Morgan to death! Saturday we weeded the front and sides, and then put little water retaining crystals in the holes caused by the aeration done last week. We put the crystals, which expand 20 times when filled with water, into the holes. Well, it took all day, then it rained really hard this morning, and when I looked out, it looked like there were ice cubes all over the lawn! They just expanded and popped right out. It was funny. I hope it keeps the yard wetter. We're on water rationing - we can only water our lawns from 6-9 am on Tuesdays & Fridays! What a pain.

Then, when I was dead from being on my knees all day, Mike wanted us to all go see a Steam Engine that was going thru Ogden & SLC. So we got his Dad & went to the Ogden Depot. This huge steam engine came puffing & smoking into the station - it was awesome! Aaron put some pennies on the track, so we all got a smashed penny. Boy, it was noisy! It was really pretty exciting - like being transported to another age. This thing weighs a million pounds and can pull twice what a modern diesel can! It was neat to see the fire in the engine, the steam & the black smoke. And it had a really distinctive whistle! It was neat. This morning, I heard the whistle & looked out my bedroom window - and tonight, I was watching & got to see & hear it again! It made runs between Salt Lake & McAdams yesterday & today - then it'll go to Sacramento for a big Railroad show. It was neat. I'm glad we went, even though none of us really wanted to go originally. Last night we found out



Our Stk is going to have a special Stake Meeting & Mike has to be here Saturday & Sunday so that he can be interviewed! Rough translation: new Stake Presidency, and they always interview all the bishops. That's the weekend we were going to L.A." So Mike said we'll have to change our tickets, which will cost a grand! I asked President Pitt for any details - he said Elder Trust will be here, the meeting will probably be in the tabernacle, and Mike really needs to be available to be interviewed Sat & Sun. So Mike said I could go see Judy before & then come home with him Friday night. So I guess that's what we'll do. I talked to Judy today and she thinks she might be pregnant! So this should be interesting.

California Trip - May 1-10, 1991

Wow, what a vacation! It was great! Morgan and I flew out of SLC Wed evening & he was so cute on the plane! He was just an angel. Judy picked us up & drove us down to see some beaches & ocean - it was windy & beautiful! We got food from a little Mexican takeout & took it to her house. Right after I got there, Mike called with the news that he got a new job! He's been looking into this job for about a month - he had an interview lined up for a Wednesday & had it all planned out, but he'd been given the wrong date & the prospective boss came a day early! So he got a taxi and zipped out there & it went fine and he has been waiting to hear. So anyway! He got the job & it's a promotion to director! That means \$8,000 a year! All right! So that was pretty exciting.

Thursday we took Morgan & Hal & went downtown to Olvera Street - a Mexican section & market. It was fun - we had a delicious lunch, then walked over to Chinatown & went in a couple of stores - I said "Nei ho ma" to an old guy & he about fainted - he was so impressed! I bought Morgan a little sombrero & the tie kept sliding & he

kept stopping & saying "zip it, Mom!" He sat down on the sidewalk several times I wouldn't budge until he fiped it! Whenever I got the camera out, he jumped up - "no pictures!" We were exhausted, but after dinner we went to a shoe store. I bought Brett Aaron & Matt some Nike Air, & me some hiking boots. I went home & called Brett - he didn't want them & Matt's were the wrong size! So I took them back. Then we went to Costco & got a few things. Then we were REALLY exhausted!

Friday 3rd - we went to some neat garage sales & got some neat things, then to a store called "RETAKES" where they get clothes from the TV studios & sell them cheap. I found a dress I liked & 2 pr of shoes. Judy bought the dress for her & I bought the shoes. We went to a Persian market - so interesting! and a 99¢ store - everything was 99¢ & I went crazy! We had Morgan & Beck with us all day & they got wild so we finally went home - then John took his boys to the Father's & Sons, so we went to a Chinese restaurant for dinner & took it easy!

Sat the 4th we just had Morgan so we hit some garage sales & then went to a swap meet where I bought a \$60 sequin dress! It is beautiful & gorgeous! Then I bought some dangly diamond earrings - t-shirts, shorts & swim suits for the kids & some Air Jordans for Brett (but he has to pay \$65 for them. He hates the deal!) We walked all over & exhausted ourselves. After we got home & John got home, Judy was asleep so I was helping John fold his tent & Morgan & Hal were out there on the grass running around - these 3 black guys who ran there walked up & Morgan & Hal started whipping them with these leaves! They were saying "Oh dad! don't hit me! I won't do it again!" - the kids were laughing & getting a big kick out of it. Whenever Morgan saw a black guy he'd say - "look, there's Michael



Jordan!" That's Brett's favorite basketball player.

Sunday the 5th Judy was feeling really sick, so John & I took the kids to church. It was interesting - so many different ethnic groups - and sac. mtg was so reverent! John had a sk mission meeting during sac mtg, so I sat by one of Judy's friends - "Parsley" and she helped tend the kids. When we got home, there'd been a false fire alarm & we missed all the action! It was Michelle's 16th birthday! So I called her.

Monday 6th Today we were going to go to Pasadena & go to a neat clothes re-sell store and Huntington library, but Hal broke out with chicken pox so we couldn't get a babysitter. So when the kids came home from school, we left and went to a factory outlet for Deje. I got 2 bras & a slip, & I got Mike 8 shirts and 2 sweaters! Spend \$275! Beautiful clothes.

Tues 7th - Judy had a little work to do in Pasadena, so we went to the clothes store but didn't find anything. She didn't feel like going to Huntington Library - it's a museum - sniff, sniff, but we went back to Re-takes and I bought 2 more dresses - a gold! paisley and a magenta dress & some earrings. Judy had a dr. appt so John was going to come home & take me to the bus stop so I could take the bus to the airport to meet Mike, but he got stuck in a meeting & didn't come - so I sat there biting my nails. So I preged Mike at the airport & he was ticked off & told me to take a taxi (\$75!) so I felt bad - then he called back from his car phone & apologized. So it was kind of a mess - but turned out ok. He came & got me & we went to Santa Monica to our hotel Guest Quarters - it was really nice. We had room service dinner & relaxed.

Wed 8th - slept in! I had had a hard time sleeping at Judy's - I woke up every night in the night for a couple of hours! So I woke up at 7, took a nice hot bubble bath & slept a couple more hours! We finally got ready, decided to go to Catalina so we drove down. On the way, we called them on Mike's cellular phone (a new toy that comes with the new job)



and we wouldn't have been able to get back until too late to pick Michelle up, so instead we went to a "thrifty" store and bought beach stuff & went down to Huntington Beach. That was where Mike took me 17 years ago so I could see the ocean for the 1st time in my life. We were at a drill meet in Anaheim & since I'd never seen the ocean, he got a taxi to take us to Huntington Beach. There, I saw the ocean & picked up a few shells - then the taxi driver took us to a bus stop because we didn't have enough \$\$. What a crap - he'd told us it'd cost \$9 both ways & it was \$12 half way there! Anyway, it was a fond memory & it was fun to go back there. I played in the water & got sea shells - it was kind of cold, but once I got numb it was OK! It was really relaxing & refreshing. Then we got Michelle at the airport, went to our hotel & changed, then went to The Hotel Bonaventure downtown for a FAUX expensive meal - \$100 for the 3 of us! Incl \$9 for parking. Very good food, & we were on the 35th floor & could see all over L.A. It was fun. Michelle stayed with us that night - there was a sofa bed in the living room of our suite - it was neat!

Thursday MAY 10, what a neat wonderful exciting special day!

We got up and went to the L.A. temple - it was so beautiful! Even in the dressing room, I was close to tears and felt so strongly the spirit. When I saw Mike, we had both just come from the dressing rooms at the opposite ends of a long hall! It was such a thrill to see him - I wanted to just run & hug him! But they made us wait on our own sides until time to go up. The temple was so wonderful. Such an overwhelming feeling of love, peace & happiness. We got to be the witness couple - & all the way thru we were both either teary or near tears! We spent some time in the Celestial room discussing our feelings - it was so neat - we kinda wondered if it meant

Mike would be called into the stk presidency, which was to be organized the following weekend. Anyway, we sure didn't want to leave & go back out into the wicked wind! We were going to go to Universal Studios, but by the time we got ready it was too late, so we went to the beach in Santa Monica & walked around & we were going to eat on the beach but it was windy & cold. So we went to the hotel & took a nap! Got ready, went & had Chinese dinner with Judy & John - & went to "Phantom of the Opera!" It was so wonderful! I wore my gorgeous blue sequin dress & dangly diamond earrings & I felt I looked stunning! It was so fun! I sat there through the whole thing, thinking "Don't end! Don't end!" Michelle loved it too. We went to Judy's & got Morgan, then got back to our hotel about 1. We were exhausted. Friday 10th - we checked out (Morgan loved the hotel & especially the elevators!) We checked the rental car in, & as the bus pulled away, I reminded ~~him~~ Mike he didn't put the briefcase on the bus, so he went back & Morgan & I and our 6 suitcases off & Mike came about 5 minutes later on the next bus. We made it on the plane & it turned out to be a really nice flight. I was glad to get home - I was exhausted!

Sunday, May 12 They split our stake & made Bruce Pitt, Pres, Harry Haycock - 1 corn, & John Schy 2nd. I was kind of surprised because I thought our experience in the temple was to prepare us - and now I think, well maybe it was to prepare us as in "I love you & you are now doing what I want"

is a bishop." So - it was a neat conference - we had it at the tabernacle, then went to mom & Dad's for a "Mother's Day" dinner - it was great. Then we went to Sheri's & visited with them. Mike gave me a half dozen red beautiful roses!

May 20, 1991 - Mike left for Denver this morning at 7 - I took Michelle to driver's ed at 6:30 & did my groc shopping - while there, I bought a pregnancy test because I've been so tired & I think my periods overdue, but I didn't write it down in April! I can't believe that. Anyway, I came home & couldn't decide, but finally did it - "Positively Pregnant!" I couldn't believe it! I was in shock! I couldn't even call Mike so I paged him on his new beeper & put 295-1128-7777777. He got it half way between here & Denver, but wasn't sure what it meant. So as soon as he got in his taxi, he called & I told him. He was so excited! He told the taxi driver, his new boss - he was excited. me too. I called Judy & she was excited. I've been so tired! I think my period was around Apr 17.?

May 26, 1991 We watched Saturday's Warriors with the kids tonight. When we were done, we told them we are going to have a baby! They were so excited. Brett said "I've had a feeling lately that somebody's missing!" We had a special family hug & prayer. What a wonderful feeling! It was really, really special. Maybe this was another reason I've had such a neat feeling in the temple.

We told our families & they were all pretty much excited - I told Vicki, "Well I decided I didn't want Judy to go thru it alone." And she said "Oh, are you moving down there or is she moving up here - Ohhh!" It was funny.

Happy? Father's Day

June 16, 1991

Well, Friday night I started spotting & did throughout Saturday. This morning I felt something was going to happen - and about 7:30 I miscarried - I could tell the fetus. It was like a whitish-greyish bubbly spongy blob. and I passed lots of clots & bright red blood, but it slowed down, & at 11 I passed a very large clot, & an hour later I passed another fist size clot & I got so hot, sweaty, dizzy, nauseous & light headed - I got another pad then fell on the floor - everybody was at church except Michelle & Morgan. My door was closed & the cooler was on - so Michelle couldn't hear me. I couldn't believe I barely had the strength to whistle - but I did it & Michelle heard me & came up - I had her call my doctor - she said to go to the hospital. I tried to page Mike, but his pager doesn't work at the church, so I called & no one answered - Sac Mtg had just ended, so I told Michelle to go get him - so she did. He came home & was so concerned and upset - he tried to help me to the car, but I was so faint I couldn't even stand up with his help - so I crawled down to the car, & we went to the emergency room at LDS Hospital. They were expecting me - they had me get a hospital gown & they took some blood & got a IV going - Dr Beard came & she was great - I really like her. She said the placenta was still attached & that's why I was still bleeding so bad. She gave me some demerol & did a D&C. Boy, did that HURT! They took 30 pts in less than 5 min. I felt so sick! The only thing that helped was Mike fanning me with his checkbook. After the D&C, they had me stay for 1 1/2 hrs till they got 2 IV bags of fluid back into me. I felt 100% better leaving than coming home. Still, I didn't feel that great - had another fainting spell coming home. Mom & Dad were here & Mom had fixed a wonderful dinner which I ate reverently! I was so hungry. Michelle was so calm and helpful - she cleaned up the blood - it was all over the



tub & toilet & floor - she washed all the bloody rags and towels & cleaned it all up & it was a mess. She was a great help. Tonite she said she felt sick tho - I think maybe a delayed reaction. She also said "I'm never having kids!" I hope Mike's mom is ^{not} right - she's said that we give Michelle too much responsibility & she'll never want to have children of her own.

Thursday - Mike left for Seattle on Monday evening. His parents brought dinner & took him to the airport. That was so nice. I slept & read all day - was really dizzy when I got up. Monday night I couldn't go to sleep - I bawled & bawled & finally took a shower at midnight & bawled all through that - I finally got to sleep. I sure needed Mike to console & comfort me! Tues - Thurs were about the same. Good friends brought meals in every night - it was great. I got up a little more today & took Michelle to her new job ushering at Promised Valley Playhouse for Celebrating the Fight. I went to Mom & Dad's & visited until she was done. She absolutely LOVED it! It will be a riot for her - we just need to figure out if she should drive or try & take the bus. I sure don't want to drive her every night! I sure miss Mike & hope he'll get home OK - tomorrow. I'll be so glad to see him & have his nice warm body to snuggle up to.

June 25-28, 1991 Girl's Camp

I worked all day Monday to get ready for camp - left Tues at 7:15. We had 38 girls at our peak, I think. We had some extras coming and going. Tues we got there, set up camp 12 different types of tents! What a job! That night we had delish foil dinners. It was pretty cold at night. All everyone went on their hikes & it was my favorite day - I read & slept. We had shish-kabobs - wonderful but too much work & too slow for so many. Thursday we finished certifying & had stake & ward activities. Mike came up Wednesday



evening. Thurs nite we had dutch oven chicken - wonderful. We gave out awards & had a really great testimony meeting. It rained on us a little, but was ok. It was neat to be there with Mike & Michelle. Michelle was a LOT of help - she, Becca Waymourt & Michelle Sadie were my jr. staff & they did a LOT. Friday we broke camp & were on the road by 9 AM. I had the girls come over & we cleaned tents & returned them. I was absolutely EXHAUSTED. It was a great camp, though, and I couldn't believe how great the girls were.

July 3-6, 1991

After getting home from camp & realizing how dirty my house was after 2 weeks of neglect, I told Mike "Let's go camping!" so we went to Bountiful Peak Wednesday night & came home Sat. Thurs morning Aaron threw up & had diarrhea - that wasn't so great, but he got better & no one else got sick, fortunately. We had such a relaxing, enjoyable time. Matt went to Lake Powell with a friend so we missed him. On Thurs, the 4th, we went up to the top of the peak & watched all the fireworks from Sandy to Ogden. It was really fun. When we got back to camp, a raccoon was getting into our garbage! We also saw 2 deer & a rabbit. Friday morning, Sheri & her family came up & had breakfast with us - then we drove up to the peak with them & they took Michelle home. That afternoon we shot Mike's 22 & that was fun. "I'm pretty good!" When Mike was walking down to set up the targets, he scared a deer out of her hiding place & shot from him - about scared him (and her!) "to death!" We had dutch oven chicken & it was good scalloped potatoes & "man's delight". Our fail dinner the night before were great & Mike's impressed at what a good little "password" until 11:30 around the campfire. It was so nice. We all got along great & Brett was so nice! Maybe he just can't stand to be caged - like an animal! Sat morning, Mom & Dad & Michelle came up - we had breakfast & broke camp, then went up to the peak.



again. Mom & Dad loved it, as I knew they would. The view is so wonderful - you just don't realize how huge the Sun Lake is until you see all of it! Then we came home, cleaned up a little, & went to a picnic at Layton park with Mike's family. That was nice, but late when we got home.

July 21, 1991 I've had a hard time the last couple of weeks - Mike went to Denver the last 2 Sundays & this place was a zoo. Friday I borrowed a carpet cleaner & Fri & Sat did carpets - I was exhausted! But my carpets sure look a lot better, & the house is looking up, I think. He decided no shoes in the house & no food on the carpets! So I hope that helps.

I had a Dr appt July 13 & she says everything looks fine, but I should wait 2 months to get p.g. again! Also, my iron is quite low so she gave me a super iron to beef up my blood. Also, I went out to Allied with Mom & Dad - they bought 12" dutch ovens for everybody & I bought me one too, so we'll have 2. They're giving them to us for Christmas. I planned the menu & sent shopping lists to everyone - they'll just bring enough for their family & we'll cook everything together. I hope it works out.

July 26 - Aug 3 Our family campout turned out really fun. The food worked out great. Mike & Steve & I cooked the dutch oven chicken, cheese potatoes, and peach cobbler. It was wonderful. Really the best meal there. We had a great time - Mike & Michelle left Sun nite with Mom & Dad - I stayed till Saturday & helped Vicki. We had a good time. Carol, my niece, took Matthew & Michael home for the night one night. She has horses and dogs - & a border collie puppies. I had a feeling I'd end up with a dog, and I did. I called Mike & he felt good about it, so we are now the proud owners of "Phantom". He's cute & we all love!



On the way home from the cabin, I had a blowout. Fortunately, I was traveling with Sandy, Vicki & Colleen - so Ryan & I stayed to fix the van & the rest went home. When I started changing the tire, I broke off 3 of the 5 lug bolts, so we had to go to a tire place & they had to get them out & replace them. What a pain. They were really nice though, & only charged me \$20. Judy sent Michael down on the plane on Aug 1, & he stayed till the 10th - it worked out fine - I think he enjoyed it.

Aug 16-17 Mike, Michelle, & I went to a Laurel-Priest activity. We went to Mike Evans cabin by Roosevelt. Friday morning we went up & water skied all day. I was going to, but it got too late & I had to fix dinner. I made chicken & potatoes - it was yummy - except the chicken smelled like rotten eggs when we cleaned it, & tasted a little like it, so I couldn't eat it & I was disappointed. Fortunately everyone liked it & I didn't notice it. Saturday we went to White Rocks cave - about like Jimpanogas, only we had rangers to show us the way to get there & back. And it was 4 miles straight up! I thought I was going to die. My spirit was willing, but my flesh was sure weak! I had to keep stopping & it was embarrassing but I did it! Mike was proud of me. The cave was absolutely awesome - loved it. Lots of neat formations. We were utterly exhausted & I would never do it again.

Aug 20-24 We went to education week! Ah, glorious week. I was so tired that Salmat didn't want to go BUT. I'm so glad I did. Vicki Rachel & Michelle & I stayed with Aunt Jadian & Uncle Lowell. It worked out just great - I really had some great classes & I came home renewed and refreshed. 2 things mainly that I learned & they hit me where it counts: 1) If I have my soul with God, I'll be ok - 2) I just need to do



whatever I can - & what I can't do, the Lord will do.
I'm not sure why I was feeling so burdened -
I guess the end of summer, & still being physically
weak - but somehow I felt the burden was
lifted, & I could do it! On Tuesday, Vicki & I got to
go to the temple with Sandy & Ryan for Vaughn to
get his endowments before going to the MTC on Wed.
We got to hear a talk & it was really neat. He told
us there are sentinels around the temple, & no evil
spirit can enter therein, and if we worthily wear
our temple garments, they are the same thing.
Also, Samuel anointed David long before David ever
became a king & ruler - he was just a boy with no
idea of his potential. It was a great experience.
I'm so grateful for the opportunity of going & learning.

Aug 29-31, 1991

We went up to mom & Dad's cabin with Sheri & Roy
and their families. We had a really laid back, calm
weekend. I really enjoyed it. We went to Island Park
Branch for church 1200 people there! Brett, Aaron, & Chris
all passed the sacrament - I was so proud of them.
Also, Brett bore his testimony! I couldn't believe it - I
don't remember ever hearing him bear it before.
Maybe when he was 8! One thing he said was
how blessed we are - we've been given so much! I
was really surprised - and pleased.

Sept 3 - School started halleluiah! My life is
finally going to be normal NORMAL?! Of there
is such a thing!
So quiet & peaceful
I love it!!

Sunday, Sept 15
1991

Today Mike & I spoke in church on parenting. I think the talks went well - I used P.D. Benson's talk to mothers as the basis for my 10 points, then expounded. I really gave my strong feelings on tv & movies. I had a lot of comments - positive! on it.

One funny thing - Matt asked yesterday if he could go to a movie with Robbie Oakes for his birthday. I said yes, but I need to know the movie. He called up & asked if he could go see "Robin Hood". I said no, it's PG-13. Hot Shots? No. Rocketeer? What's it rated? PG, well ok. Michelle went I said it was good. Then Robbie's mom got on - they were going as a family & just taking Matt - & I had to approve the show! Duh! But today she told me she appreciated it - she'd never thought about it! It was kind of funny.

Sept 16 - My folks dropped by for a few minutes & we got to visit with them - then we went up to Mike's parents' house & had a nice visit - they started telling kids about when they were kids - it was nice. I scrubbed & waxed the floor today & it looks great! Except I get so hyper when somebody spills. Makes me crazy. I'm so tired, & Mike had to go see someone - it's almost 11.

Oct 30, 1991

Boy, another month since I've written - I guess the most exciting thing that happened was Pres. George Bush, US President, came to Salt Lake & we took the whole family to see him. There were thousands of people & we waited 2 hours on the hot tarmac to hear him speak, & we couldn't really see him, but I think it was a neat opportunity for them & pretty neat for us, too. I've never seen a president in person. The next weekend was general conference, & Mike & I went to Sat morning. President Benson was there & looked old & feeble but great to see him. I can't help but contrast between the 2 presidents & who I'd rather spend an hour with, and how Pres Bush commands armies & navies - but Pres Benson has the power of God. There are so many good men & leaders who really care about us and want us to all return to God. We saw Dewey & Kathy Getz, friends of ours from Germany. That was fun. Yesterday we went to a BYU game with the 4 older kids & had a good time. Last week we went to the opera "Samson & Delilah" & took Mom & Michelle - we had a good time & really enjoyed it. Mike went to Denver this past week - I picked him up Friday & we went to dinner & it was good. The past few weeks we've had a fireside or two on Sundays for Priest & Laurel parents on strength of youth. It's been a hassle, but at least I've had a headstart on Monday. Oh, this morning while we were rushing to get ready for church, I heard Ialmage say, "The baby comes out of the mom's stomach!" And Aaron said "no sir" - "uh huh" - "no sir, there's a special hole down there" - "no sir" so, I thought "teaching moment" so I went in & got my medical book & showed Ialmage a cross-section of a pregnant woman, etc & it was interesting, because Matt was kind of trying not to act interested but really was. So I told them if they ever had a question about anything to ask me. and remembered that our bodies were made by heavenly father & they are wonderful, so we should never make fun or laugh at anything our bodies do. So I think it went over pretty well. Yesterday when we went to the game, Mom watched Ialmage



and Morgan from 10-5! They really had a really fun ^{time} she took them for a walk up memory Grove & made cookies. They really had a neat time and it was so wonderful to just drop 'em off & not worry about them. Then tonite during the fireside Michelle took the kids & went to see them so they'd be out of the house. It's great to have them nearby. Dad's really been hurting lately - especially his feet. They really are having a neat time down here - I've really never seen them so happy.

I've been feeling a bit depressed and dragged down lately - I really don't know what to do. I can think of 2 things right off the bat: 1) I need to exercise regularly & watch what I eat (lose weight & get in better shape) 2) study scriptures EVERY DAY. Probably even more important than losing weight. I weighed 171 this morning - yeech! I get grouchy & don't like anybody - especially Mike. He's not been feeling well so he needs attention & I don't feel like giving it - & yet he works so hard & goes so fast that I'm afraid he's going to keel over.

November 3, 1991 Sunday

I've had bronchitis this past week - it's been colder & snowing. Morgan & I went to the dr & he had an ear injection, so he's on cildor again. The other night a thought hit me - maybe he sucks his finger because it relieves pressure in his ears! I was right. So anyway, I'm dragging, altho I do feel better. I feel like I'm so lazy & I'm always behind & my house is always a mess - I always have laundry & ironing to do! I have started walking & I think that will help a lot. Mike went to Chicago today - I hope I can accomplish something while he's gone. Last Monday I started horse-training our dog, Phantom, & he seems to be doing fine. He's only had 3 accidents - he's so cute & smart.

November 10, 1991

Well, I made a great start last week - I cleaned really good & got all the Laundry done on Monday, then I was an election judge on Tuesday - from 6:30 am - 10:10 pm & boy was I pushed! So Wednesday I was so tired, and I got a perm. It was like my brain was disconnected - it was so weird. I went to the library & couldn't think of any books or authors - I had RS & I didn't get anything done - I was in charge of the dinner - we had 5 soups and bread & cookies - it was great. I started feeling better but we had such a headache! I called Judy & she said she feels that way after a perm. Then I read & was lazy. The kids didn't go to school on Friday & I was so mad at them because they didn't do what I told them to! By the time we went to get Mike on Friday I was quietly furious! And depressed. I felt like I didn't like him (for dumping everything on me,) or the kids (for being such mean little disobedient snots) or me, for being so lazy and ineffective. Anyway, I wasn't a very cheerful wife. He had to go to a meeting, so Aaron & I went to Mervyns & got some stuff - shoes for Aaron, Matt, Jalmage & me, a coat, jeans & shorts for Aaron & sweats for all the boys. \$300.00! Then I had a 15% add off, so I saved \$45 more. Anyway, I needed to cry on Mike's shoulder, even tho he was nice, he didn't try to understand or comfort me, so I was mean & yozed him out. I woke up at 3am feeling really bad, & so did he, so we had a really good 5 tissue cry and he was really sweet and understanding and sympathetic. We talked till almost 6, then slept, got ready & went to a funeral for a friend of ours, Beverly Meckam. It was so sad - we bawled & howled. She had a brain tumor & left a 17 & 14 year old. Cute boys. Then we took all the kids to pizza hut & had pizza, then Mike & I took Michelle & her date, Ben Blauer, to the "Gift of Music" concert in the tabernacle with tub choir & Utah Symphony & Fredricka von Stade. It was wonderful & I was happy then too. We got ice cream after and went to Mike's office. Ben is a cute boy & he told Michelle she had "cool parents" it was fun & I was glad we went! Today



Mike went to church at 6:45 & came home at 3:30 & we all took him to the airport - he left for Minneapolis for 3 days. Then we went to Mom & Dad's & had a nice dinner. It was fun. Mike talked to the kids about fighting but I don't know how much it helped. Joyce E. & I were talking about my kids & she said maybe if I made them serve one another they'd love each other more. I need to figure out a way to do it.

November 24, 1991 Sunday

Last night Rex, Mike's brother, was called to be bishop of his ward. When Mike's parents called & told us, I started crying. I felt so sorry for Carrie - after all, he's been in the bishopric for 4 years - & now she's got at least 5 to go! We went to the meeting & it was good - she seemed surprised at my attitude - & I guess that's my problem! Last night Mike couldn't believe it either - and reprimanded me for not being grateful for this blessing. So now I know about Michelle felt when I was upset with her for not being grateful. Although I'm much better now, it's not easy to be a bishop's wife. I feel like although it's very taxing on Mike physically, the Spirit bugs him up while he's doing the work so he can do it! But when he gets home, he's exhausted. Add that to a tough job and lots of traveling, & he really doesn't do much around here. I know I'm being ungrateful and selfish --?-- but I will be glad when he's released as bishop. I really am trying to work on gratitude & acknowledging the hand of God in all things. I honestly can't see a lot of blessings we've received directly from being bishop. Mike can, of course - so I feel like a creep. I sure hear up & leave home! What a terrible mother! But somehow I feel like - only 10 more years to endure, then 4 of the kids will be out here! If only I can last that long!

Dec 1, 1991 Sunday

Thursday was Thanksgiving - Mike's family came, & we had a really lovely day. His mom has really been blessed & her legs are no longer in pain. She's on a \$5,600 machine for 4 hours a day. It's neat she's feeling so much better. I worked really hard spring cleaning the kitchen and family room. I even scrubbed the family room carpet. My back is really killing me though. Brett said, "Mom, this is just like me & Aaron turning off the nintendo and running into bed when we hear you coming." Funny kid.

Friday pm we went to hear the Viewmont choir sing in the tabernacle - they were super. Michelle did so well, & looked beautiful. My parents went with us. Tonight we went to Ogden to visit Mike's parents - it was their 52nd anniversary on Friday. We had a nice visit.

December 6, 1991 Friday

Today I served on a jury. 12 potential jurors were called, and they picked 4 - I was one. A man had been arrested & accused of driving under the influence of drugs. Sounds terrible, but it was worse - the drugs were prescription drugs from a doctor, & taken correctly & within limits of normal use. He drove erratically & clipped another car on a turn. We all felt sorry for the guy, but the judge & prosecuting attorney emphasized we had to decide if he proved beyond reasonable doubt that he 1) was driving the car 2) on Apr 11 in Sountiful city 3) he was under the influence of drugs. They also gave us the option of finding him guilty of reckless driving, or finding him not guilty. It was hard because it didn't seem fair that he should receive the same penalty as someone who had been drinking or illicit drugs - but we felt that the city proved he was guilty & he indeed was under the influence of drugs. When we gave our verdict, the judge said "I don't usually comment, but I would like to say congratulations, ladies of the jury." So I got the feeling he agreed with us. After congratulations, ladies of the jury. So I got the feeling he agreed with us. After a court clerk told me he lost his licence for a year, & had a \$450 fine.

and that was $\frac{1}{2}$ the usual fine. So I felt our job as a jury was to say if the law was broken, and his to mete out justice for mitigating circumstances. So anyway, it took 4 hours total and I got paid \$17! Mike went shopping for me, & spent WAY more than I would have, but he decided we'd cash in our \$350 savings bonds. We went to Ogden tonight and bought him a suit. He also spent about \$180 on me! He shouldn't have! It was nice to be with him.

❄️ Christmas 1991 ❄️

This Christmas was really nice - way in October I told the kids Santa would give them 3 things - Jesus got 3 gifts, so they don't need more than that so it really helped me simplify my shopping. Michelle - camera, shoes, perfume. Brett - weight bench, snuggli, & basketball. Matt & Aaron - rollerblades, snuggli & basketball. Salma - racecars on a track, office supplies, & watch - Morgan, wagon, 50 cars, & 7P Garage. Mike's parents gave us a beautiful \$250 picture for our living room (she left the price tag on) & they gave the kids a "double shot indoor basketball game" which is wonderful & they love. (I asked her if she'd mind if I used the money for them for one thing for all of them she said ok. When she realized what it was - she gave Michelle \$35 so she bought pants & a sweater. I gave Mike a suit shirt, tie & shoes. and I bought him a zipper - remote control for the TV & he loves it. He gave me a cordless 2 line phone.

Michelle & Aaron (& all the kids signed it) gave me a Frankin day planner!

February 2, 1992

Wow, I can't believe it's been so long - I've been giving the kids a treat if they write in their journals every Sunday, & I haven't even written!

We've had LOTS of sickness this month - I think everybody except me has been on medication - Mike & Morgan twice! What a pain. Now Aaron's sick again. Anyway - I've felt really discouraged & depressed this past month. Maybe a small part of it was seeing all the cute new babies & thinking "I'd have one by now!" Mostly, though, it's just been an exhausted "why try?" feeling - as far as children and housework go. They're just so mean to each other - & me! Anyway, I've been feeling better this past week - like the cloud has lifted. It comes and goes though. The highlight of the month was probably the Opera "Isca" we went to on Jan 18. It was excellent! On the way home, we saw our van parked on main street - Michelle had taken it to the mall to a movie! We jumped it and it ran a few blocks before it died. Then I pushed it with the camry (scarry) until a policeman stopped & told us it wasn't a good idea! So we pushed it into the Jenny P Stuart parking lot for the weekend. On Monday we tried to get it going & it wouldn't, so we had to have it towed again & got it fixed. Monday the 20th was a bad day! A police officer and animal control officer stopped & told us Phantom had bitten 3 kids the previous Friday - & the kids hadn't told us! So the dog was put on quarantine for 10 days - I was the only one who could take him out or be with him. The rest of the time he was in his kennel. It was a pain. He hadn't hurt 2 of the kids, but had broken the skin on a girl's leg. So we found out who it was & they'd taken her to the doctor, so we paid them \$50 for that. We were worried they might sue us. Then to top off the whole day (week), we'd known that US West was downsizing & that Mike might be out of a job.

but hadn't thought it'd really affect us. On that Monday, Mike's boss came to town & interviewed him & said it was a lot worse than he thought - 12 out of 36 directors would be cut, & he wasn't sure what was going to happen. So - the van wasn't working (death throes?) the dog had bitten a little girl (would we be sued?) and Mike might lose his job! (unemployment?) Things did get better - the van was fixed for \$165, the dog bite only cost us \$50 & they won't sue, we hope, and on Thursday, they called Mike and told him he was the best man for the job! WHEW!! It was the following week I started to feel better.

On that Tuesday, after scripture study, I & Susan Sledge stayed at Joyce's & watched "Funny Girl" & had pizza. It was fun. It had been her birthday the day before.

On the 24th Matt had 2 friends over for pizza & movie. Michelle Erickson, Joyce's daughter had a car breakdown on the freeway about Draper. Joyce & Bruce were at a big dinner, so we went out & got her & Mike drove the car home.

The 25th, Matt's birthday, we went to the temple with our ward. We had 60 people from our ward & it was really neat. After, we went to lunch with some of the people from our ward, then to Race (Price Savers) & got some stuff. Finally, we got to spend some time with Matt.

My goals for the year are a repeat of my goals for the past 15 years

- 1) Daily scriptures
- 2) Daily exercise
- 3) Think thin!
- 4) Organize house & keep clean!
- 5) Get out of debt!

I've done pretty good - including #5! We finally cancelled our expensive life ins policies & will be getting a good chunk of cash (hope) back. We got additional term life w/ US West.

Jan 25, 1992

Matthew George Williams is 11 years old! It's so hard to believe - he's getting so big. Matthew is in a 5/6 split class this year - he thinks he's a 6th grader! He's a smart, conscientious boy. His Teacher absolutely loves him! She had Brett, too, and loved him! When I went to Parent-Teacher conference, she said "What can I say? Your boys are perfect!" I nearly died of ~~total~~ shock! They really do have a different personality at school than they do at home, & I'm extremely grateful they at least know how to act around other people! Matthew does act a lot like Brett - it worries me. But Matt seems to be growing up in a lot of ways & is acting positive more often than negative. He is still a cute blue eyed blond - people even say he looks like Brett! His best friends are Andy Bingham and Derek Seutler. He really likes Mrs. Vetter, his Teacher. He's now a blazer & thanks to Derek's mom, he almost has 4 merit badges already! He does really great in scouts & he'll probably have his Eagle before Brett & Aaron. He's a really good worker & when he sets his mind does a good job. He got roller blades for Christmas & he loves to go skating and play street hockey. He's really good in basketball - he played Jr. Jazz in Nov/December and did a really good job. He's quite talented and a good player. We love him a lot and are grateful to have him as part of our family.

February 9, 1992

This has been a pretty boring week. One exciting thing is I've really been working on getting our debt paid off - we have about \$10,000.00 to Mastercard & overdraft. So I've cancelled our insurances - we got over \$800 from prudential & I plan on getting about 4000 from State Farm, unless they're totally stolen our money. I can't understand all that State Farm stuff. Anyway, will get \$1000 back from taxes, we borrowed \$1000 from the kids' savings and here & there - anyway with bonus etc, I plan on being totally out of debt by summertime! I got a book about getting & staying out of debt - I really am excited to do it and never debt again! Mike is very supportive, but the thing that worries me is that he doesn't think he is any part of the problem! And I think he's the main problem because he spends so much money & never keeps track of it - so I'm not sure what to do - I'm praying hell get committed, too.

Feb 12, 1992 Morgan is 4 years old!

I can't believe my little baby is four already. He really is turning into a kid and isn't a baby anymore. He is so absolutely darling, you'd think he was our 1st! He is, I admit, spoiled rotten, but we all love him so much! His hair is kind of a bowl-cut, & his little freckles match his hair so cute! Blue eyes, long silky eyelashes - his just so cute! He loves to help me make my bed, and he has to place the throw pillows just so - all on Mike's side, & the bunny there too. His best friend is Brett Bagnell next door - Justin's little brother, but he's a pretty nice boy. We all call him "lil' Brett" because that's what Morgan calls him - to differentiate between him and 'BIG BRETT'. Morgan's favorite pastime is tv - just like Talmage was! Herbie! Herbie! is his favorite show, but he goes in spurts - watches the same show over & over; then it's another one. I gave him Love Bug for this birthday, and taped Herbie goes bananas to. We (Justin) lost our other Herbie tapes. I also gave him 50 puzzles - he loves to do puzzles! He's really good at them, too. I worry about him being a zombie & an idiot because he watches so much tv! I who



now going to use tv as a babysitter. He likes me to read to him, but I'm not very good - I don't do it very often. He does not like me to sing to him - he must have good taste for music, because if I start to sing, he puts his hand over my mouth! At least now he'll let me sing in church! The other day, it seemed like spring! I let him go out & he got soaked up to his knees! I spat him & made him stay in the rest of the day, & he walked around grumbling "I don't like my mom... I DON'T LIKE YOU MOM!" cuz she's mean to me! He still loves his blankets, but they are losing their hold - it generally doesn't have to be a specific blanket (such as his horse blanket) as long as it's one of his blankets. He doesn't like to eat - breakfast especially. He won't touch a cheerio or anything that remotely resembles one. He does like oatmeal, "eggos" (waffles), toast with cinnamon & sugar, and slim-jet. (oops, my fault - I drink it every day!) He won't eat organized meals, but would rather scrounge and get into things he wants - cookies & crackers, apples, bananas, ice cream, whatever! He usually eats a pretty hearty dinner - loves "chicken" (any kind of meat.) Of course he loves anything sweet! (Unless it's fruit loops - he won't even try them!) He can be a good little helper - he loves to spray & wipe windows, mirrors, fudge etc. He also loves to help carry in the groceries and thinks he's pretty strong. The cutest thing is when he plays with the dog, & chases him round & round the table. The dog speeds up or slows down, depending on what Morgan does. Sometimes Morgan will just leap & tackle Phantom, & Phantom keeps on running, pulling Morgan around the kitchen while Morgan hangs onto his hair & laughs & laughs. It's so cute. Also, more than anything else, Morgan loves to play with his cars - lining them up, racing them, building bridges & buildings. He loves his cars - especially his Herbies. And we love him so much! He's an angel.



Feb 23, 1992

The last couple of weeks or more have been such a pain I guess part of it has been that Mike's been sick & he has not had 1 ounce of patience or compassion for anyone outside work/church - in other words, in the family. So I can only be so compassionate?

Feb 25, 1992 Brett's 15th birthday!

Last night we ate pizza and went bowling with the family. We had a great time - every one really enjoyed it and had fun. Brett is in 9th grade - I think this year has been, overall, better. I think Brett is finally growing up and maturing. He gets mad if the other boys are being rude to me. - Sometimes - He still is rude to the kids & teases them & is mean & bratty and makes me crazy! I get really stressed out & tied up in knots because he is so argumentative and demanding. But most the times he is pretty good. He's about 5'7" - taller than me! It's really interesting to have a son taller than me. He's really a cute boy, and starting to be a cute guy! He's about 117 lbs. and he thinks he's one awesome dude! He's doing better in school - A's & B's. I think he's finally getting a little more responsible. He loves basketball & is doing pretty well. He plays on a church team and j. jazz. On his church team, he beat the first place team in a double overtime! So he goes to region next week. He's excited. He is basically a good kid and wants to do what is right. (Unfortunately, he doesn't think fighting is bad!) He likes seminary and hasn't missed a day reading scriptures for 175 days!

TALL (Dad) BASKETBALL-Y - (Mike) NIFTY (Brett) MEAN (Aaron) NICE (something mom)
SLAM-DUNK (Aaron)


March 2, 1992 Mon

(purchased yesterday) Mike's in Denver, but before he left today, he bought a new car! Actually, it's a 91 Chevy Beretta - just like our old one. Only nice! It's black & white - "Sham" grey colour inside. It has power windows & doors & an AM/FM stereo cassette. All in all, it's very nice. Mike went to Denver this afternoon, & I took the kids for a ride. We paid \$15,600 for it - almost double what we paid for the last one - 11 years ago! But the interest rate is 7.9 & last time it was 17.9! Or 18! So that's a little better. We're still not sure if we'll keep the old car for the kids to drive or sell it. With 2 new cars, our insurance is \$20 more than if we have 1 new & 1 old car! Mom & I said we'd be crazy to get rid of it. So who knows? I started a new eating plan for life last week - "Eat & be thin" & she eats & eats & I am feeling great! Exercising too. I wake up at 5 AM & couldn't go back to sleep, so I get the dog and we went for a walk 5:50 - 6:50 & it was so nice outside! My ankle kind of hurts though. I'm feeling better & thinking this really is a lifestyle! But I eat all the time & I lost so I never get hungry!

Mar 7 - Nathalie, my niece, was married in the I.F. Temple. It was so nice, and I was glad we could be there. I spent Friday with Vicki just running around.

Mar 9 - Monday. Morgan was bitten by a dog today, so I had to take him to the doctor. Within a half hour after I got home, Matt took Phantom out & Phantom bit Zach Madison, a friend of Matt's. Wonderful! So he's on quarantine again. I called Carol, my niece, & she said they'd take him back.

Mar 12 Thurs. We spend from 7am to 9pm at the Temple - we did initiatory, baptisms, sealings & endowments. When we did sealings, our sealer was Samuel Bell, my bishop when I was 3-6! I recognized him. It was neat. Mike went to Denver.

March 14, 1992

Tonight we had a surprise party for Mike's 40th birthday. All our neighbors, his counselors & Rep's Sheri came with spouses. We had it at the Red Flame. They had black balloons, wheelchair, dead flowers on the table, everyone in black. We were going to go play Nertz & go to dinner - he didn't suspect a thing! Everyone gave him gag gifts - I gave him a hat that said "Don't tease me about my age or I'll beat you with my cane!" It was really fun.

Today we had M. Talmage's birthday party. Poor kid couldn't think of 8 friends, so he just invited one, Bradley Mullins, & we took the family bowling. It was fun!

March 15, 1992

Our Talmage is 8 years old! He's been looking forward to this for a long time. I bought him a new double-breasted grey suit & he looks so cute in it. We gave him his scriptures, too, & he was excited about that. He got a big kite & some other things too.

Talmage is doing pretty good in school & seems to like it. He's taking piano from Michelle & does so-so. Some days he practices by himself, but usually he doesn't do it unless I sit with him - & it drives me crazy. He is really a cute boy, and getting so big! Some days he gets up and really pitches it to get his work done, but most of the time he bawls & whines & complains about having to do work. "I hate work!" "How come I hafta do all the work?" and so on. He loves me to read to him - right now we're reading "The Bopcar Children." He really responds to some love and attention, and soft speaking. If I yell at him or get angry with him, his feelings get really hurt and he says "You hurt my feelings!" I really need to be more sensitive to him.

Talmage really likes to ride his bike, fly kites,



play soccer, basketball, and with the dog. His best friend is Bradley Mullins, although he still plays with Justin Bayrell sometimes. He complains about getting up & reading scriptures, but he's getting lots better at it.

Talmage is a really sweet boy, and usually wants to do what is right, but sometimes he is really stubborn and grouchy. He likes to scream if someone is bugging him - which they do a lot! Sometimes he plays with Morgan really well & I love it, but lots of times, he bugs Morgan and makes HIM scream! But we love Talmage and are very glad he's part of our family.

March 17, 1992

Court of Honor tonight - Matt got his ^{boy scout} tenderfoot, Aaron got his star, & Brett got his life! (I've been saying, "Brett Get a life!" for a year & a half now. It was neat & I was proud of them all.

March 21, 1992 Talmage Baptized

Today was so special - Mike baptized & confirmed Talmage a member of the church. Mike's parents, Carrie & kids (~~he~~ had to work) Richard & Corni (Sheri stayed home with chicken-pocked Danny) & MY PARENTS came. This is the first time my parents have come to my child's baptism. Mike's dad gave the talk on baptism & my dad gave the talk on the holy ghost. It was neat. Afterwards, everyone came over & had strawberry shortcake.

March 23, 1992

Aaron got braces on the top of his teeth to correct the gap in his teeth.

Thursday, March 26, 1992 Washington DC!

Last week, Mike called & said: "Gimme going to Washington DC with me next week!" He had a special whereby I could fly free, so we did it! We left our kids home alone! We left early (am & flew) to Denver, changed planes & flew to Cleveland, Ohio, had a 1 hr layover, I got out & walked around. Then we flew to DC! It was overcast & pouring rain when we landed, so we didn't see much. We took a taxi to our hotel, unpacked, relaxed, ate dinner in the hotel, & watched tv! Fun to be here.

Friday, March 27

We had a cab drop us off - Mike at work, & me at the National Gallery of Art (Smithsonian). I spend the day from 10-4 going through & seeing all the rooms! It was wonderful. I really enjoyed it. I saw Rubens, Rembrandt, Pissarro, Degas, Renoir, Cassatt, Leonardo Davinci - the only painting of his outside Europe, Titian, - everybody! A whole gallery was by Guerrino, an altho I don't think he did sculpture. He's like Michelangelo, Classical art. I did spend a few minutes in the modern art building, but didn't get to see any of the main modern art a Picasso! "Pregnant woman." Looks like me. I was supposed to meet Mike at 4:30 across from the White House, so I walked there with 2 ladies from South Carolina. They didn't know anything! They weren't even sure what the Washington Monument was! So anyway, when I got to the place, I checked Mike's beeper I had & he'd sent me a message saying "go to the hotel" so I walked back & I got home at 5:00 I was DEAD! Mike took a taxi back.



Saturday March 28

We took the Subway out to Forest Glen, & our old friends from Germany Floyd & Judy Abbott, met us & took us to the Temple. It was so beautiful. We went thru a session, then they went back to town with us, & we had dinner together and walked around the air & space museum for a while. Then we took a taxi back to the hotel.

Sunday March 29, 1992

This morning we took a taxi to The National Press Club downtown, where we attended the Washington DC 2nd ward. It was interesting - what a different group of people than we see at church! I recognized a woman who had been on the Laurel-life Committee with me - she isn't married & works for Richard Stallings, a Senator(?) from Idaho. Then I put my Nike hi-tops on & we went walking! We took the subway to Arlington Cemetery & walked all over there. Then we walked across the Potomac River on a bridge of course - to the Lincoln Memorial. That was my very favorite place. Such a great man, & a great spirit! Then we went to the Vietnam Memorial that made me pretty choked up - to see how many men died there! My grandpa's wife, Ellen, had a son killed there - so we did a rubbing. It was neat. We walked to the Hilton we were DEAD - especially since we were fasting - & had a wonderful \$55 dinner! Then took a cab home. It was a neat day.



Monday March 30, 1992 I slept in & Mike did some work till about 1:00. Then we walked to the subway, took the subway to Union Station & had lunch there. Then we went to the Supreme Court & saw that, then walked all over the Capitol building saw the statues of Brigham Young, Philo Pharesworth, Branch from Idaho! We saw the Senate and the house. & a lot of stuff! Then we walked & walked & walked! Then we went to the air & space museum then to the Washington monument, but it was 4:00 & the line was 1 hour long, so they wouldn't let us in! So we walked back to the Am Hist museum & saw the 1st ladies exhibit, it was really interesting. I'd love to spend another week seeing all the exhibits - but it sure is tiring! Then we went back to the air & space & saw an IMAX movie. We were so tired after, we took a taxi back & ordered a pizza, & watched the Academy Awards.

Tuesday March 31, 1992 - We flew home today just backwards from how we went - I was glad to be home. The first thing Michelle said was "I'm never having kids!" There were times, but everything turned out ok -

Wednesday April 1, 1992 - 37 years old! Today was a pretty boring day, as far as birthdays go. I did 10 loads of laundry. I told Mike it was ok, since I'd just had 6 days off! Carrie Vicki & Judy called me & Mike's mom sent me \$50! My mom gave me a cookbook she made while on her mission. They just left last Monday to go home.



Saturday - Michelle's Junior Prom
April 11, 1992

We looked all over for a dress & even rented one for Michelle, but I decided for the same price, I could make one. So I made her a beautiful rose lace covered satin dress. It & she was beautiful! She went with a boy named Brad Troop - nice enough, but not her type. We both - but especially she - thought this other boy, Matt, was going to ask her, then he asked Michelle. Tadi! It made me mad & really hurt her feelings. Phantom hit Blake Bingham last week, so we have to get rid of him! Brett's really broken hearted.

April 13, 1992 Monday My period was due last Saturday, & since it hadn't come yet, I did a pregnancy test. It was positive! Mike was with me, & that was nice. We were both sort of - uh - oh, I guess it's positive. Hm. I feel really - uh - mixed feelings, I guess. I think I want to have another baby, but I'm scared of another miscarriage for labor & birth for the next 20 year commitment! Morgan will be 5 years old & going to preschool next year! So I really have mixed feelings, but I pray all will go well & this child will be a blessing to all of us. I'm due 21 December - right before Christmas! I'm going to take the diet class "Eat & Be Lean." I bought the book & have done it for about a month - but I don't want to get to 200 lbs! And I want to be healthy & feel good.

April 16-18 I took the boys & dog to Idaho. Spent Friday at Carol's so Phantom could get used to it. Brett & I cried. Sat. I went garage sales & Mike came up in the old van to take Mom the love seat! We decided to leave it there & see if Dad could sell it. So Mike drove home with me.



April 19 - Sunday - Easter.

It was nice to be home together as a family. Mike took part in the program in R.S. & Michelle played for him while he sang & it was beautiful. I got some bunk beds in Idaho - Dee gave them to me - so I will do some rearranging of rooms. I'm going to put Aaron & Matt in the play room & let Brett have his own room. I imagine Morgan upstairs. Then next year, when I move the baby out of my room, maybe I'll move one of them down - who knows?

April 23, 1992

Aaron's 13th Birthday!

For Aaron's birthday, we took the family and Lake Case to a movie & had pizza. It was fun for Aaron, I hope. Aaron is definitely a teenager. He's more moody & grouchy and tricky & even defiant. Plus, his grades have really gone down - to a 3.2! This from a brilliant boy! He's still loving and pretty laid back, but he does have his moments, and I can tell that he's turning into a teenager.

He's growing taller & even a little broader! He's got some peach fuzz & has to shave off his sideburns pretty often - probably weekly. I moved him out of the playroom to sleep with Matthew, so Brett has his own room. I think that will be better for both of them - Brett is getting a little nicer, although he still bugs Aaron a lot. I worry about him. Aaron is still pretty lazy - he'll get out of anything he can. He's usually not beligerant, but he'll say "Oh mom!" or "But mom!" a lot, but he doesn't keep fighting back - he'll acquiese pretty quickly. If I stay on him, he does pretty good, but if I get involved in something else (which often happens) he doesn't do it. Anyway, I love him a lot and am so proud of him whenever he passes the sacrament.



he is so handsome & he really is a good boy!
He loves the Jazz, Earl Malone, and collecting
and trading basketball cards. He's pretty much
quit piano - all but officially. He hasn't had a
lesson for over 2 months. He never has progressed
or accomplished much with piano, I feel like
it's like beating a dead horse to try & get him to
play with it.



(A copy of a letter I wrote to Michelle)

April 30, 1992 6:00 AM

My dear daughter, Michelle,

After you left this morning, I couldn't go back to sleep. My thoughts turned to a morning almost exactly 17 years ago - and at this same time of day - when you finally came into my life. Oh, I knew you'd be coming, and cherished the idea of becoming a "mother." I hoped and prayed for a daughter, while everybody else just knew you'd be a boy. It was such a glorious morning - I remember seeing the Sun hit the Pura Temple - but nothing was or could ever be as beautiful as you were when you were born. I remember that miracle so well your fat pink little face, and how you sucked your fist and gazed at your new daddy while we wept with joy. We loved you so much! We were going to be the very best parents a baby could have! We were pretty young - I was barely 20, & Dad was 23. But then, of course, I remember feeling very old & mature. You were always a beautiful baby, and child, and little girl. You grew up to be a beautiful, charming, talented, responsible, compassionate young woman. Our joy in you has been great. Michelle, I couldn't have asked for a finer daughter. I love you so much! You've put up with a lot from us as your parents, as we've broken the rocky road of parenthood with you as our "experimental model." We've never done this before - and the only training we've had has been how our own parents brought us up, and disciplined us. And things sure look different from this side, believe me!

I knew, as a young mother, that I'd have challenges as I raised you and your brothers, but I felt like if I loved you enough (and I knew I would), I couldn't make any major mistakes - could I? And everything would just be balloons, and cookies, and swinging in the park. I thought my heart would break the day you kicked me and said, "I hate you! Mommy!" I've come to realize that's fairly normal behavior for a 3-year old, but at the



time you did it, it really hurt. And so it's been with all the phases of growing up - any disobedience or resistance or temper or whatever, has been a shock to me, leaving me feeling wounded & upset, and wondering, "What have I done wrong?" And then as I've seen the boys go through the same stages, I've been able to say to myself, "it's normal. I'll get through this." But it still hurts, and I still wonder what I did wrong.

You came from me, Michelle, - you're a part of me and always will be. I share your joy in the things that make you happy: boys, friends, grades. I feel your heartache with challenges and frustrations: boys, friends, grades - whatever. When you are happy, your joy spreads out and blankets the house - and we are all happy. When you're upset, we all feel it. You have a great potential for making people happy - if you could just realize it. It doesn't seem fair, but there it is: as a woman, you have the power to spread love and joy, or pain and discomfort. I remembered when I realized it was my responsibility to set the tone and mood of the home - "it's not fair!" Why do I have to be the one who is loving and pleasant and kind and soothing? Because, I found, if I don't, no one else will, and it's what I want. I've found, however, it doesn't always work just because of the sheer number of personalities around can grind me down to despair, sometimes. But I've noticed that you have the ability to lighten the atmosphere and raise the mood and be a peacemaker. We've seen you do it, and appreciate you for helping me. Lately, it seems like we've butted heads whenever we've talked about anything! We think we're trying to teach you responsibility, respect, and appreciation, and you think we're trying to ruin your life!



I realize, in the overall scheme of things, that you are trying to become independent and break away, but we don't want to lose you, so we're trying to hold on to you even tighter! For 17 years you have been our responsibility, and we've loved you and taught you and controlled you! Now, we're losing that control and it's scary! And it hurts!

Rationally, with our heads, we know this is part of becoming an adult, and it's important to let you go! But with our HEARTS you are still the most beautiful baby girl that came to the earth - and you're our baby! Please understand - we're trying to do right, and we love you dearly! We are honestly not trying to ruin your life - we really are trying to teach you - and sometimes it hurts - both of us!

We want so much for you - we want you to feel the joy of achievement, of going to college, of serving the Lord on a mission if you desire, of marrying in the temple, when you are 26 or 36 (just kidding!), of bearing children, and feeling the joy of giving another person life! Of serving God and feeling the joy of being part of the great plan of salvation - of this life and the eternities!

When you think of that, you wonder how we get so caught up in the silly little, insignificant problems of our life - but we do. That is life, and how we handle it determines how our life is spent!

Michelle, I love you! This letter is a mess because I've bawled all the way through it. Please believe me - I want your happiness and success! Please trust me, and forgive me when I make mistakes. I only want the best for you!

Love
Mom,

May 2, 1992

Bountiful Temple Groundbreaking Ceremony

We went to the Bountiful HS & got on a bus at 7:20 am, which took us up to the temple site. The meeting started at 10:00, and it was really special. The whole 1st presidency was there - even Pres Benson, who was in a wheelchair. But with support, he even turned some dirt. It was a really special experience - the spirit was really there. During the closing song we really felt like the angels were joining in to sing with us. It was wonderful.

Last Thursday, the jury came in with a "not guilty" plea for some policemen who had beaten a black man last year. There was a lot of violence & rioting - it was so scary. Many places were burned, people killed. LA was put under martial law. Mom & Dad were going to go down - Judy's blessing her baby, Dane, tomorrow. But it was just too scary. Around 50 people were killed. All so senseless and violent! Sad & scary.

We went to Michelle's voice recital & it was good but way too long (2 1/2 hrs!)

May 5, 1992

Happy Birthday, sweet 17 year old Michelle! Today was one of - NO THE worst birthday Michelle's ever had. All her friends forgot (she thought) and so she was really depressed when she got home. Hoping to cheer her up, I said "well, how about if I gave you a little sister for your birthday?" She was so excited and cute! I had to amend it with, "Well, it may not be a sister - you know how that goes - and it won't be until Christmas but!" She said that made up for the rest of the day being lousy. She was excited, and it made me feel good. Anyway, she went to mutual, and about 15 of her friends came over and surprised her after mutual. And she was really surprised! Matt & Sen

gave her a musical picture frame that had a really neat saying on it. So she ended up pretty happy about the day. They ate cake & ice cream & talked & played basketball until after 11- they're really neat kids, & I'm really happy Michelle has chosen such a neat group of friends.

She's a really neat girl, though, and we love her so much. She's a really talented, mature, smart, beautiful, wonderful, darling daughter. She's doing really well in school & working really hard- taking AP classes, honors classes, teaching piano and taking voice lessons. And she loves to party and socialize! And she accompanies lots of kids so that keeps her busy too. Unfortunately, socializing and accompanying take priority over boring things like HOMEWORK, so her grades have suffered.. She got 2 C's last term! I nearly had heart failure. She thinks she'll be able to bring them up for the semester. I sure hope so!

Michelle's best friend varies - she really has more of a group that does stuff. Rebecca Wayment is an on again off again friend, but then she's been around with Matt & Michelle, Tadge & Ben & Steve & Nate alot - & sometimes Celena and Wendy. They're all good kids with high goals. (Ben's my favorite) But he's proud & determined to not get serious with any girl so he's really nice to everyone.

Well anyway, it's fun to have a daughter like Michelle. She's really enjoying her life & making the most out of it, & she always talks to me, so I appreciate being part of it.



Madrigals!

May 24, 1992. This morning at 7:30 I heard car doors slamming, footsteps running up to the door & voices singing - beautifully! I called Michelle on the phone & told her. Dad was downstairs waking them up anyway. Anyway she came up & they sang to her and she made Madrigals! We went to her audition Friday night and thought she was wonderful! But we thought that when she tried out for the play and didn't make it. Anyway, she's thrilled & so are we for her. Celena, Wendy, & Ben made it too! It's going to be expensive and time consuming, but it will be a wonderful experience for her. We're thrilled to death for her.

May 27, 1992 I had my first OB appt today & got totally checked out. Everything seems to be in shape! I'm 10 weeks along! Yea! Wt 168. I'm going to Dr. Summison. He's very nice & very professional. I think I'll like him. I have been so utterly exhausted lately! It's unreal.

June 21, 1992 I've really been lazy the past month, but I have been feeling better. Just tired. I usually have 2 naps a day, but do quite a bit between. The kids are out of school, & it really hasn't been too bad. Mainly because Brett & Aaron are at work all day. They both work for Matt Pack's dad. (Matt is one of Michelle's friends.) They get paid by the hour & so make about \$14/day. Brett just bought a nice 60 player yesterday. I had an OB appt on the 17th. I weigh 169! And I have really been eating lots more! I've had this strange head pain the last few days, but it hasn't bothered me today much. We went to Ogden to see Mike's dad for a few minutes, then dropped Mike off at the airport. He's going to Minneapolis for just 1 day. Michelle got straight A's this term & Brett got 3.5, & that's much better than he's ever done! I've been working on my



kids' scrap books - memory books, whatever. I've finished Salma's - he really thinks it's awesome. I've done 5 years on Michelle's - hers is going to be gigantic! I've really enjoyed them a lot & it really makes me appreciate them and how fast they're growing.

July 5, 1992

This past week we went on our Williams family vacation. We went to stay at Richards' family cabin at Panguitch lake, about 5 hours away to the south. We left Tuesday night & got there about 9 or 10. It was a small cabin with no running water, but it did have electricity & gas. We had a 300 gal tank of water. On Wednesday we took it easy but left about noon & went to Bryce Canyon, about an hour away. We really enjoyed seeing all the interesting formations. Thursday the guys went fishing & we took it easy. Most of us went to a nearby lodge & had a shower for \$2. We gave the little kids a bath in a wash tub. It was fun. I started dinner at 3:00 & cooked dutch oven chicken, potatoes & peach cobbler. It was pretty good, but definitely not worth all the work. I was a bit put out because last week, when I told Mike vacations stressed me out, he said he'd be there to help me - nah! When I asked him if he would help me he just said "And will you help me take the boys fishing?" So he really put me in my place & it made me feel bad. Anyway, right after dinner, we left to go to Cedar City, an hour away, to go to the Shakespeare Festival & we saw "Merry Wives of Windsor" it was really neat but we were all really tired when we got home at 12:30. Aaron woke me up at 6:30 - he had an ear ache, & I couldn't go back to sleep & I was worried about the dutch oven, so I got up & cleaned them. It took me over an hour



but at least I got them done. What a pain.
Then we got out of there by 10:00 & went to Bivouac.
It was so AWESOME, everybody really loved
it. After our picnic lunch (that Richard had
fixed while Sheri slept.) we went on an "easy"
hike to Emerald Pools. I thought I was going to
die. It was .9 mile up a canyon, but it was worth
it. We played in the water & it refreshed me immensely.
We hike down another route - only .6 miles &
much cooler & paved. A very lovely trail. Then
we went to see Weeping Rock - a little hike,
but up! Then drove to the entrance to the park
but we were all exhausted & there was no place to
park, so we turned around & went home. The last
time I was there was on our honeymoon but
I had forgotten a lot of it. Everyone really
enjoyed the day. It was nice to have cousins
to trade with, so we didn't have growling, fighting
kids. It was a very enjoyable day, & we got to
bed before 10. Mike & I were both exhausted.
Seems like he gets sick on every vacation.
We left by noon Sat & got home at 5:30
last night. A lovely vacation & nice family
bonding experience. Mike's still stressed out though.
I sure am getting fat! I'm to have an ultra-sound
this Wednesday. I wonder if they'll be able to tell
the sex of the baby! I'd sure like to know!


July 12, 1992

Sunday

Time sure is flying! Last Wednesday, July 8, I had an ultrasound. Mike & Michelle went with me & it was really neat to see that there really is a little baby in there! We could see the face, body, head, arms & hands waving around & legs! It was neat. Only 1 baby & she couldn't tell the sex - (sniff) but the placenta was pretty low, so she's recommending another one in 2 or 3 months. I should know then, for sure. Otherwise, I'm expanding quite rapidly & I'll bet I've gained 5 lbs this month! I go in going to the Manti agent on Wednesday night. Mike left today to go to Washington, DC for a meeting. Tomorrow.

July 26, 1992 Sunday

This past week we've spent at Tielsen Haven. Mike flew out on Sunday for Montana, and I drove up with the kids on Monday. Tuesday night, Mike rented a car and drove to West Yellowstone, where I met him. Wednesday we really took it easy - just slept & read, and watched 2 movies with the family. The Son of Flubber - which was really fun, and Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure - kind of strange but funny. Thursday we cleaned up the cabin and went to Yellowstone. We took the north loop, & hiked Tower falls. It was nice but I almost passed out coming up! But I was OK. Between Tower & Mammoth, we saw a bear! The first bear I've seen since I've been married! So it was pretty exciting. We had a good day, and when we got back to the cabin, it was full of people! It was fun to see everybody & we visited & talked until late. Friday the guys took the kids to see the fish at Big Springs, then later to Sawtill. We talked & cooked & cleaned up. We had a fireside - sang songs & told stories around the campfire - instead of a program, & that was fun.



Sandy & Ryan didn't come, but everyone else was there. Saturday we cleaned up, fixed lunch, & came home. I wanted to stay till Sunday, but Mike wanted me to come home with him. So we all did. It was a nice reunion and I think Mike got some rest & relaxation. He has traveled so much this summer I can't believe it. It would be a lot easier for me if he wasn't a bishop at the same time, because it seems like he's gone all week with work, and all day Sunday with Church! So when he is home, it's almost like he's intruding! It's kind of hard to adjust sometimes. Oh well - hopefully he'll be released from bishop within the year.

Oh - while I was ~~asleep~~ asleep yesterday morning, Hal and Morgan were in the next bed. Hal woke Morgan up, they left and came back. (Hal also woke me up!) They got back into bed with a flashlight & I heard the following conversation, after a lot of laughing & talking:

Hal: Ouch! you hit me!

Morgan: I hit you?

H: Yest you hit me in the eye. And it hurt!

M: Oh, I'm sorry.

more playing around. Then "Thunk"

M: Ouch! You hit me with the flashlight - sob

H: Well, you hit me two times! And two

times hurts badder than one time!

M: (crying): But one time with the flashlight hurts badder than two times! I'm gonna tell my mom.

H: Well, I'm gonna tell my mom. I'm gonna go say "Mo-om, Morgan hit me two times."

M: Well, I'm gonna tell my mom: "Mo-om, Hal hit me with the flashlight!"

Then I hear another "thunk"
H: Well, it hurts badder cuz you hit me 2 times and I hit me once with the flashlight so I'm gonna tell my mom
M: Well, I'm gonna tell my mom, cuz she's the meanest mom.
H: My mom is meaner and I'm tellin her I got hit 2 times and one time with the flashlight.
On, look, the light on the ceiling looks like a woof!
M: no sir
H: I'm gonna hit my head on the ceiling.
Then he proceeded to jump up & down on the bed, but couldn't quite reach it. So he went over to the beam & gently put his head on it. Then they went downstairs!

Aug 10th, 1992

Monday morning
This past weekend was very memorable - One Thursday morning, Michelle & Brett left to go on "trek," our stake, for stake conference youth conference, sponsored & did pioneer trek, modeled after the one BYU did for our kids 3 years ago. It was very well planned & executed - they walked from our church up the mountains & over to Bountiful Peak. They left the church at 11 AM and walked, pulling loaded handcarts, until 1:30 in the morning! It was about 96°, & it was really hard. Michelle had a wonderful attitude, & really tried to encourage & uplift the other, younger kids in her family. And she pushed her body too hard. She had heat exhaustion, & she was really sick. Mike went up Friday night & gave her a blessing. She was able to stay over that night, but rode home Sat morning with John Walker,



who was in charge. Anyway, about 5:30 pm, we started seeing kids coming down the hill. I figured Brett would be one of the first. Michelle went over to the church to see her "family" & get her stuff. About 6:30 she called & said "mom, they lost Brett." She was crying, & I said, "Oh, don't worry - he's got to be around somewhere!" So I went over with mom - she & Dad had stopped to see us - & I got out of the car & said, "so I hear you've lost my son!" And everybody turned around with very serious faces & the girls were all crying & Pres Pitt said - "nobody's seen him since this morning." So I said "Oh" & I still felt like he was ok & would probably come walking in sometime! Well, after that, everybody decided it was time to start looking for him. Some went up in jeeps, some went up on horses, & Kim & Lee & Mike Evens went up in Mike's plane. When Mike went out to the SL Airport to get his plane, he was behind 8 loaded jets, all waiting to take off. He explained what was happening to the tower, & they let him go first. Michelle's boy friends Ben, Matt, Steve, Nate etc came over in their jeeps & went to look for him. Mike went up to Little Valley & walked all over looking for him. Sheri & Richard came over, Rex & Chris came over, half the ward was in and out - it was busy. The sheriffs came over & got some clothes for the dog teams - the only ones I hadn't washed were his Jordan shorts - & he said "I'll have to tear these up & give to the dog teams. I was worried about the shorts." Michelle & Robin Rederson said "we'll take up a collection." Michelle said "I can't believe you're giving him Brett's Jordan shorts!" Everyone said "I'd rather have the son than the shorts!" Everyone was saying I was calm but I was calm. I just knew he'd come walking out of the mountains! However, as it got later and darker I started getting more nervous. I prayed we'd had family prayer towards the beginning, & I prayed



Brett would be calm & guided & that we would be calm & comforted. I really felt that prayer was answered. Around 1030 I got a call from Ken Kitchen - a guy in our ward who lives at the top of the hill. He said "I've got him" so I called Mike & told Sheri to call the sheriff - they called John Walker & he got the word to the searchers. What a relief! I went outside just as he pulled up. As he got out of the car, I just started crying & went over & hugged him & walked him into the house. He looked so bedraggled & forlorn and exhausted. I couldn't believe the relief & thankfulness & love I felt for this tall little boy of mine. So, what had happened on his part - After breakfast, they split up for "solo", when they're supposed to go out and ponder, pray, study the scriptures etc. They told the kids they'd shoot a gun when solo was over. Well, Brett never heard the gun - a lot of them didn't, but heard other people. Anyway, after a few hours - he had no watch, so he really wasn't sure, he decided he'd better go check. When he got back, no one was there - ANYWHERE. He waited & waited & waited & finally decided he better go home! Since they were on Bountiful peak, he knew he could go down & he'd get home! So he started down. (In the meantime, when they gathered for lunch, after solo, they knew Brett wasn't there - & they kinda looked around but decided he must have gone with some friends. This makes me mad, because they did everything in families & even had a buddy in their family. His buddy kept saying I can't find Brett! Brett would never have missed lunch & he would have rejoined his family. So it makes me upset that they'd leave him when they were relatively sure he hadn't come back from solo. They did wait a half hour & nobody else came, so they figured he'd gone, & left.)

Brett didn't take the road because he figured it would be faster to ~~the~~ just go down the hill. (Wrong) But

nobody got back up there until after 7 pm! So he did what he felt was the best thing to do. He was soaked to his knees, filthy dirty, & he hadn't had anything to eat or drink since morning! He lost his canteen before he left! Because they'd warned the kids about giardia, he didn't dare drink the water, even though he was wading in it & it was 96° out there! He fell several times, & was bruised & scratched. Once he slid about 20 ft - it was dark & he didn't know where he was. He played constantly & really felt he received strength to go on. He played we'd be calm & ok because he knew he was ok, & he didn't want us to worry. After it got dark, he played for light & guidance. He came around the corner, & there was a bright moon rising over the mountain. He had to do some back tracking when he came to some waterfalls, but he knew where he was, because he's hiked up there. He said once he got over the hill, he could see our house & he felt like he was home free! He saw cars & lights & wondered what was going on! Just before he got to Kitchens, Ken said to his wife, I'll bet he just walks out of the canyon. Then he saw Brett & said 'who's that?' 'Brett!' 'You got over here - I'll take you home!' I was so glad to see him I couldn't believe it! The sheriff came & talked to him & made sure he was ok, then asked Kim what the details & Brett said 'I don't want anybody to get in trouble - it was all my fault!' I couldn't believe it. He really acknowledged the fact that God had his prayers answered & had been protected & watched over by the Lord. It really made him appreciate his family & all the blessings he has! When I told him about his shorts, he said 'I don't care!' - it doesn't matter. He's been so sweet. He appreciates being able to turn on the water & get a drink. He said he'd definitely go on trek again - he loved it! We're very grateful his home is ok.


Sept 6, 1992

Well, school started last Monday - it's so wonderful! Two weeks ago, Sandy (my sister) came and stayed with me. We went to Grandpas & picked tomatoes, then she helped me put up 50 quarts! Then I bought some peaches, & over 3 days put up 45 qts. Not as many as I would have liked to do, but more than I felt like doing! It was neat to have Sandy come visit - man has she got problems! I feel sorry for her. Oh yes, Rachel got married Aug. 14 in the SL Temple. I went through the temple with them on the 13th & got to be an escort for a girl, Mary Fitzgerald, who is going to England on a mission. It was a really neat experience. Then she was married & Mike made it back from Denver just as they began! So I was happy he was there with me. Then Saturday we went to Idaho to the wedding breakfast & Russell's mom did a slide show of them growing up - while his grandmother sang "Turn Around." Course, all the moms in the room were bawling their eyes out. I helped get some things ready for the reception - Michelle was a bridesmaid and she looked so pretty! She had a white eyelet dress with a green sash and green trim. It was so fun to make. Anyway, it turned out really nice & I was on my feet most the night. We came home the next morning, went to church, & took a nap! I was exhausted after having company for 3 weeks in a row. Anyway, when I woke up, I had this awful pain in my uterus & it scared me - it hurt so bad! It felt like my placenta was peeling off! I went to the Dr the next day & he checked everything's fine - it was the ligaments around the uterus. He said the baby's doing fine - my body's just falling apart! He told me to take it easy & not do anything. I didn't



have to! To sit down & get my feet up & let someone else do it! I asked if I should walk, & he said no - it puts too much stress on my body & causes contractions & leg & back pain. Wait till after I have the baby! So the next day, I went to Education Week. It was weird, because Vicki wasn't there so I was on my own. I enjoyed most the classes but nothing was worth the effort to walk, so I stayed pretty close to the Wilkinson center & did go to Michael Ballon's class on "Les Miz" & when he sang "Bring Him Home" I bawled & bawled because it reminded me of how I felt when Brett was missing.

The neatest class I went to was on pre-natal development, & learned even more how miraculous a baby is. He also had a 5 1/2 mo old fetus who's mom had died in a car accident & so did she - she was this perfect little tiny baby - & that's just what my baby looks like ~~to~~ right now! That was really inspiring. Michelle went with me but was on her own most the time - I don't think she had the greatest time either, but she enjoyed it. I was so exhausted & mentally wiped out, I came home Friday. So did mom & Linda - we were all so tired! And mom got really sick that weekend. She has Super, & it flared up & she was sicker than a dog!

Vicki's sure having problems too - Ron still can't decide if he wants a divorce or not - can't see how he could afford it. Wade doesn't want to have anything to do with church - so Vicki took him out of seminary. Man, I guess problems run end. Friday night was our ward campout. It rained



and rained Thursday night & Friday, but we went anyway, & so did 3 other families! So we had a nice time - the leaves were all turning and it was absolutely beautiful! I didn't sleep real well, but I lived. We came home around 1, & I slept then Mike & I worked in the budget. We spend \$200/mo more than we make! So we're trying to get that under control.

Sunday, September 13, 1992

Morgan started school ~~today~~ this week - he really enjoys it. On Monday, Labor day, I took Mike to the airport & he went to S. Dakota. The kids & I went up to see Grandpa & Ellen - we had a nice visit, but they sure are getting old! Grandpa is 95! I read a lot this week & took it easy. Thursday, I had a doctors appt, I weigh 183 & everything looks good except I had a glucose blood test - my iron is down to 35 & my glucose is up! So I have to go in next Tuesday and have a 5 hour glucose test! What a hassle. Yesterday I got the basement cleaned up! It was a disaster! The kids helped me - kind of - but I turn into such a witch because I get so mad at their messing around! Last night we went to an elder's quorum party & had a nice time. I bore my testimony last week in fast meeting - told how Talmage said to me one night, "Mom, do you like bein' a mom?" And I said "why do you ask that?" He said, "Cuz sometimes you're so grouchy & it doesn't seem like you like bein' a mom!" It made me reflect on how I act - especially at bedtime!



Sunday, Sept 30, 1992 I can't believe September is going so fast! Last Tuesday, I had to have a 5 hour glucose test. What a pain! I couldn't eat after midnight on Monday, & I had to be there at 8 a.m. They took blood & urine, then gave me some glucose solution & took it again at 8:30 & 9:00, then every hour after that until 1:00. By then I was absolutely exhausted & shaking & weak. The next day at 5 pm I finally found out everything was ok. What a hassle to go thru, but I'm glad I was negative & so don't have to worry about diabetes. I've been so awfully tired - but I've been trying to take my vitamins & iron like a good girl & I am starting to have a little more energy. Michelle's been selling "Happenings" coupon books to earn money for her Madrugal and Concert Choir dresses. I asked everybody & so did she, & Mr. Jochen took one to work & sold 9 for her. She makes \$6 each on them, & she's sold 31! Friday night we went over & visited Mike's parents for a couple of hours. Sat Mike & I painted the back door & the back deck & all the white trim in the back & the front door & white trim. It looks so much better! Next week we'll paint the railing & garage door trim. Then we went to dinner with Kelt, Carrie & Richard & Sherie. We went to Theresa's Indian village - we had our own little teepee & it was fun. Afterward we went to Mike's parents house & had a nice visit.

Sunday Sept 27, 1992

We're getting some beautiful fall weather! Last night was homecoming dance - Michelle went with Matthew Huffaker. She wore her bridesmaid dress from Rachel's wedding reception & she looked just beautiful! She had an ok time, but his not her type - he wore a 3 piece polyester suit! Kind of nerdy - hate to be rude. But, when he brought her home, he opened her door, said "Thanks, goodbye" and got back in the car! Kind of strange. But at least she got to go. We went to the symphony yesterday - it was fun & I think everyone enjoyed it. Mike was going to seal the grout in our shower - I got it all cleaned last week. But he got into scraping the old caulking out & putting new in & that's all he got done. It looks good though.

On Monday, I had my front tooth fixed - it had broken out several weeks ago & it looks lots better. Friday night Mike & I went to the Ogden temple and ate at a nice restaurant where Mike used to go after dates. Then we stopped at his parents' house & visited. We didn't get home till midnight.

Sunday Oct 18, 1992

I had an OB appt on Oct 8 & everything is looking good! I had an ultrasound on Oct 9 - I wanted to know whether we had a boy or a girl - & they couldn't tell. "Maybe it's a girl - possibly a boy." Fortunately, the placenta has moved up out of the way so a regular delivery should be possible. It was really neat to see the baby - heart beating, legs, feet, arms & hands - face, backbone, whole body - it was really detailed & really neat. I really was disappointed about not being able to tell, though.

Judy came to visit on Wednesday. On Thursday, Sandy & her friend from Washington came & I suggested a sisters

day to help her sew her daughters wedding dress!
so we did that all day. Late in the afternoon the
neighbor's dog, Skippy, bit Hal & Judy had to take him
to the dr to get stitches and medicine. It really
freaked her out. We really did get quite a bit done
in the dress & she really appreciated it. They slept
here & went to Idaho Friday morning. Judy & I
took it easy, then went & looked at some houses -
John had some interviews here & there, & one in Boise
on Friday. Sure hope he gets a job out of one
of them! Saturday we went downtown &
saw Patrice & had lunch. Mike took all the
boys on a bike & they really had fun. Mike
got the cooler taken care of for the winter, & we
got the main part of the house cleaned up,
so it looked fairly decent. I've been really
tired at night, but overall, feeling pretty
good. I have occasional ligament pains -
usually at night & they hurt like heck!
But then they go away & I'm ok. Today
I told Morgan my jammies were called
a "mu-mu"! He ~~thought~~ thought that was
pretty funny. At dinner, I said, "tell Dad
what I call my jammies." He said - "It's
her moo's!" What a cutie. Vicki called &
she's coming down Tuesday. No kids! So
it will really be fun. We had a good
speaker in church today - a guy Mike
knew in High School. He was a jerk in High
School then was in an accident where he
should've died, but didn't & how it changed his
life.

Oct 25, 1992 Sunday

This has been an emotional week. Vicki couldn't come because of problems with Wade. What a turkey - he's been in trouble with the law & she's really had to keep an eye on him. ~~Saturday~~ ^{Sunday} night was a Madrigal dinner for parents - It was nice to see all the kids & their parents. Mike went to Phoenix for the week. I've had a really bad time making Michelle's madrigal dress - ~~done~~ it was almost done when they decided to change the skirt but the material didn't come in till Monday & I had to have it done Tuesday at 5pm & I was frantically sewing it at 5:00 - putting the zipper in. When I went to unzip it, I'd sewn across the zipper & couldn't squeeze her in & paid Cheryl Gloschen \$5 to put in in the next day. Anyway, I was furiously trying to get it done on time when Michelle came home & said "nobody else has tight around the arms". I just started bawling - hands on face - "I'm sorry it doesn't fit - I'm sorry it's a mess" & I just felt so bad - she was bawling too it was awful.

So anyway, ~~at~~ I talked to Mike in Phoenix & he was really mad - said I had to demand they pay me if they were going to pay the seamstresses. So after the dinner, I told Joanne that & she exploded & it was awful. I wrote her a note - oh, she told me they need to change the hem because it hung funny - I'm so sick of this dress! Judy Wayment & I have been working Wed - Fri on their Concert Choir dress - it's so pretty, it looks like a wedding dress. I loved it but after I got the sleeves in the shoulders & the dress is too tight, so I'm having to put in gussets in the sleeves & sides & I'm getting sick of sewing. They've got to be done by Wednesday night. I'll be really glad when they're done.

★ NOV 1, 1992

★ Baby Next Month!

Wow, I can say next month! I'm so tired of being pregnant & mean & grouchy. At least I know I'll get over being pregnant - It was a fun but busy week. Mike left on Monday for Wash DC and Vicki came. We sewed all day Tuesday & Wednesday, getting Michelle's concert choir dress done. It turned out really pretty. Tuesday night we went to Aaron's Jr. High concert, & Wed night we went to Michelle & Brett's concert. It was really good. I borrowed Sheri's video recorder & recorded the concert. Thursday I took Aaron to get his braces off, then Vicki & I went to the Genealogy library & worked until 10 pm. I was dead meat! Friday we went to DI, Magan's pre-school program, Scripture study w/ Pres Pitt, Aaron to get his retainer, Royal Studios to pick out Michelle's proofs - we had her pix taken last week in her mad's dress & she looked beautiful! Then we stopped at ZCMI center & bought Matt some BB shoes then I made 4 trips to the Jct taking & picking up boys from basketball then I went to the airport to pick up Mike then we went to a Halloween party & got home at 11:30! Ron came Fri night & took Vicki home Sat am. Mike took the 3 older boys to a BYU football game - ~~them~~ and I slept & read all morning & ran around all afternoon. Oh Vicki helped me & I got all my choc delivered! Then - Trick or Treat! & Michelle had a dance & dressed up like the 50's. It was 10:30 & the dishes weren't done & I was dead & Mike told the boys to do the dishes & they were giving excuses. He started lecturing & I felt so bad I just started bawling & it was a mess - he feels like he's trying to help & then I go against him it was a mess but hopefully was resolved. Brett had his patriarchal blessing tonight - it was really neat.

Nov 8, 1992

Last Monday I had a doctors appt - he thought the Chart said Dec 2 - not Dec 21, so he thought he ought to check me - cervix was closed & thick so I wouldn't probably have it this week! I said, "so are you going by my ultra-sound date & then he realized I was 7 weeks - not 4 weeks away! I gained 7 lbs this past month - 194 lbs! Yeech! I told him I was planning on having the baby Dec 10 - that would be just fine - actually, Nov 30 is 3 weeks early & that would be fine with me - if the baby is ready, that is! My urine sugar was a little high - but I really am ok - just need to watch what I eat. Mike decided we really need a video recorder, so he went to camera den & bought one with every accessory you can think of - but no payments until April - \$1700 and I have heart failure every time I think about it. We live - barely - from paycheck to paycheck & I worry about money all the time - I wake up & worry about it. Mike's even thinking of borrowing another \$1000 for Christmas! I just don't feel ok all good about that. I think we'd be better off to not have a Christmas at all than borrow that much money. I do worry about Christmas, though - I figure we can spend \$50 on each child - & Morgan & Salmage are about the only ones I could get anything for - & yet, we always get into trouble borrowing way too much for Christmas! Anyhow, I'm sure things will all work out.

Bill Clinton was elected Pres of the United States last Tuesday - I have a very sick feeling about him. He announced 3 of his first things to do - overturn Pres Bush's stand on federal-funded abortions - now they'll be ok, allow the abortion pill in to the U.S. & allow homosexuals in the military. Sounds like a really positive start to his term in office. It scares me! Mike talked in church today & did a really good job - I could tell it was really weighing on him & he felt strongly about it - but I don't know how many listened.

Nov 15, 1992

I have been really depressed this past week. I guess most of it is that I feel so crummy & fat & miserable. My back hurts really bad - I have lots of contractions & pain in my lower abdomen. Then I get dizzy & hot & uncomfortable. I'm so grumpy and mean & emotional. I bawl a lot. Mike went to Wash DC Wed & Thursday. He's been sickly for months - but Wed am he woke up with a sharp sore throat and cough. He called Dr Wilson & got a prescription & we had to go to Salt Lake to get it on the way to the airport. I was so tired because I'd been up in the night & I was so tired! But he doesn't trust the battery in the car so I had to take him & I was really ticked off. We really haven't been getting along too great lately. Mostly because I feel so rotten & so does he, & we're both so concerned with ourselves & our own problems. However, I feel like I still wait on him but he doesn't even care that I'm miserable. Wed night I just bawled & howled & feel like he's burning the candle at both ends & work & church are so important, but the family can just wait - I wait - I wait. The last 4 or 5 Saturdays he's either worked or slept all day - it just really ticks me. He insisted we sign Matt & Falmage up for basketball - & I've had to take them to all except 1 game & I'm sick of it! I get mad then I feel so guilty because he is trying to do everything and I should be nicer and more supportive. I'll just feel a LOT better after I have this little bambino! Mike stayed in bed all day yesterday & today - until he left to go to Seattle! His counselor & our home teacher came over & gave him a blessing - I feel like he should be healed - he deserves a miracle!! He works so hard & puts out so much & spends so much time! Anyway I'm expecting him to call from Seattle & say he's feeling better. I bought Matt a mountain bike yesterday at a garage sale for \$65 - I came home & tried to get



Mike to go with me & look at it but he wouldn't because he felt crappy - so I went & got it. He did help me take it into Erickson's house & I could tell he thought it was a piece of junk. He said "these aren't mountain bike tires - these aren't mountain bike handle bars it needs to be tightened - it's a good thing you didn't pay more for it" so I felt really bad. When I went to pick him up at the airport Thurs - I waited almost a half hour & when I got out to greet him he said "why did you park clear down here? I've been looking for you up at the other end!" so I felt bad I got in the car & vowed to never pick him up again! He's just been so insensitive and selfish & critical lately! I know it's because he's feeling so crappy but I'm not in a very understanding loving forgiving mood. Things had better change!

Last night Michelle went to Stk Conf - she's choir organist and our choir sang. Someone gave a talk on Sabbath Day Observance & told how Pres Kimball said drought is caused when the saints don't keep the Sabbath Day holy. This morning she came bursting in my room & said "The boys are causing the drought" I said "How?" "They're playing Nintendo!" She was serious.


November 22, 1992

A lot has happened this past week. I went to Dr. Summison on Monday - baby's growing, I weigh 195 1/2! measure 37. Heartbeat was female today - & he said his right half the time! My back really hurts, & I have a lot of contractions & pains still, but I'm feeling overall, lots better than last week! Mike has been feeling much better, fortunately. Not great, but he's a lot nicer & we've been able to spend a little more time together & be close - it's amazing the difference that makes. He worked late last night, so I took dinner in to him & ate at work with him. He worked until 2 & got home at 2:30 am! Then he had a long phone call 730-930, then he slept 'til 1pm & went to work. Right before he left, I got a phone call from Diane Greeds friend & neighbor telling me that Scott, her husband, had committed suicide the day before. Boy that shook me up! Amazing how it puts problems into perspective. They've been having problems for 3 years & have been going to counseling & therapy. She had decided to divorce him & she told me he was so dependant on her that he couldn't face life without her! We went up to the funeral yesterday morning & it was pretty good. When I saw Diane we just hugged & bowed & she said "Oh Joyce let's go back - and help me make the right choice." And she was at the time, it was the right choice. And she said "No - it wasn't!" But I remember her parents tried to talk her out of it & so did I - I couldn't believe she'd marry someone like Scott! He just wasn't committed - kind of hoody in high school, then air force, no mission. But - it could have turned out better - it was the choices he made after that. It was really sad.

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She's going to sell her house & move to S.F. She'll live in her parents' house - they're serving a mission in Hawaii, although they came back to help her for a week. She'll go to work for her dad because it was suicide, she has no insurance, although she told me they changed their policy last May, & the previous \$200,000 policy did have a suicide clause. We stayed & had lunch with them & got to visit. Her friend that called me, Suzanne, is the sister of one of my friends - Kathy Walker! She is a great lady & good friend to Diane.

Anyhow, when something like that happens to someone you love - it puts things into perspective. My husband may be gone a lot, but he does come home - & he is a good man who would never hurt me or our children. And he loves the Lord & wants to serve him. And we have beautiful good children who are turning into beautiful good people.

I talked to Vicki Friday & she is really concerned about Wade - more worried than she's ever been. He wants to quit school & he's never going to church again & he's really not changed his attitude at all. So Vicki's asked the family to fast for him again. Last night, Mike said "How about if we offer to let Wade come live with us?" He's really serious. I would like to do it & help Vicki that way but I'm really leery - he'd have to have a major change of heart, & if he did that he could stay home! But Mike's going to call Ron & talk to him. I'm sure getting anxious for this baby - 1 month! But I've averaged 2 weeks early, so maybe only 2-3 weeks!! I'm planning on the 10th cuz that's around the full moon - & my ultra sound due dates are the 7th & 8th. I can't wait!!

Nov 29, 1992

Well, we're getting closer! I guess the most exciting thing to happen this week is that MICHELLE got accepted to BYU! So we're excited. On Monday, I took Brett out to FHP for a sports physical - he passed & is fine. Then we went to Face and did some Christmas shopping - oh we got our stock dividend check \$720! So now we've got some money for Christmas. Then we had lunch together - it was fun! Then got some more things at Shopko. He missed a whole day of school - but I dropped him off for practice! We mustn't let our priorities get mixed up here! It was really a fun day though. Brett had his first basketball game - Mike & I & Matt went. He played the last 30 seconds! They won, but it was disappointing to me that he didn't get to play more. He's happy as a clam, though. It was fun to see him play.

Thursday was, of course, Thanksgiving. Michelle made Butterflake rolls & I made jello & tossed salad. We both had naps. In the meantime, Mike took all the boys & met Richard & Rex & Chris & played BB all morning. We went to Sheri's at 1:30 and had a sumptuous feast. Lots of food & plenty of people! We watched our videos & talked until about 8pm. It was a nice day. Friday & Sat we just lazed around. Friday night was the VHS Tabernacle concert - it was really excellent and the Madrigals were great. I can't wait to see their whole show. Brett was in it, too, so it was fun to see both of them involved in music. Sat Michelle had a voice recital and worked 2 shows at Promised Valley. It's been a busy week - Mike was in Santa Fe & Albuquerque Mon & Tues. It's really helped the week go by fast!

8'6 oz

20" long!



December 6, 1992

Nicholas Nelson Williams was born on this beautiful glorious Sabbath day! I woke up at 3:50 this morning and my water had broken. I was so excited! I woke Mike up & he said "let's go to bed for a couple of hours-" I said NO WAY!! I'm going to the hospital and having a BABY!! I'm so grateful my water broke - they've had 4 ladies come in & get sent home today! Anyway, we got here at 5:30 am & I was dilated 2-3. The doctor said start the Pitocin! So she did at 6:30. We called Mike Seithurand & he came about 7:30 - so did Raline, his wife. He gave me an epidural and it was wonderful! He said "did you feel that contraction?" And I said "what contraction?!" So every once in a while I'd feel the pressure but it was NOTHING! Nothing really happened for about 4 hours. When Dr. Summison came in at 11:30 I was still "3" & that baby is higher than a kite! So we just waited & laid around. Around 12:30 she checked and I was 5. From then on, it went fast - I could tell, all the sudden I felt something moving down - so she checked me & said -yup! It's moving down! She went to call the Doctor, then came back and started setting me up. I was watching in the mirror & I felt a strong contraction starting to come out. I said "it's coming! There's the baby's head!" So the nurse just held the head & suctioned. The doctor came in - barely got his promise! I said another contraction! It's moving & I barely got the baby and - it's a boy! I couldn't believe it really was a boy! I planned on it, but hoped - beyond hope - that it was a girl. He is SO beautiful! He looks just like Aaron! Lots of black hair & absolutely perfect little mouth, nose & eyes - Beautiful! I've called & talked to everybody! Mom & Dad came yesterday for her family party!



so they stayed & fixed dinner & took the kids to church. Michelle left about 2:30 & rounded up Mom & Dad & the kids & told them so they didn't just hear it in church! Kim well told everyone in primary, then Linda Jagert announced in SS closing exercises that I had my baby, but couldn't say what because Kim wanted to announce it in church. Then Kim announced in Sac Mtg that I'd had a baby boy! So everyone in our ward knows! Raline was there to see everything & she was really impressed with it all. She bore her testimony & it was neat, I guess. Then my mom Dore Huss & said she was glad I had a boy so I'd try again for a girl - then I'd have just the opposite of her - 6 boys / 2 girls. I can't believe she said that!

I'm so happy to have him here. After church, Mike brought Mom & Dad & the kids over. Morgan came in & said "We saw Nicholas!" I'm a BIG BROTHER now! They were all so cute - & so tender with Nicholas. After they left, I just sat & held him & cried with gratitude and wonder that I have been so incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful perfect baby - BABIES! All my children are neat, wonderful, special people & they're all turning out so great. Absolutely great people. I have such a tender feeling of love for each & everyone of them. He is so soft and beautiful & perfect! I can't believe I went through such unnecessary pain every time for 6 times. This epidural was absolutely marvelous! Wonderful! Fantastic! Michelle was here for the whole thing & she thought it was really neat. I'd like to get her feelings in writing - it was special to have her here with me. Nicholas is absolutely wonderful! She been up since 4:15 to 9:15. I am getting rather sleepy but I want to see my dear husband. I love him so much! Thank you Lord, for all these blessings!

Dec 27, 1992

* Nicholas is 3 weeks old today! What a darling little angel. At 2 weeks he weighed 8 lbs 10oz - a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ gain! and was 22" long - 2" in 2 weeks! He's a sweet little boy - good napper, calm Temperment - until he's hungry, then he really howls - until I pick him up - then he quiets down & settles in to nurse. I went to the ward Christmas party & left him with the boys - he took a bottle of formula really good! I've done a lot of shopping and running around & he sleeps while I'm gone & doesn't wake up until after I'm home! It's been great. There's a lot of sickness going around & so I haven't taken him hardly anywhere, but yesterday he started having a 'cold'. His little nose gets plugged, so I've had to suction it out before I nurse him. He's such a doll & we all love him so much!

We had a really nice Christmas - I really tried to hold the spending down & did pretty well, then Mike went with me to finish up & we spent a lot more. However, we were extremely blessed to receive 2 "on the spot awards" for exceptional contribution - a \$1,000 one from his boss, and a \$500 one from a section (ACS) he's done a lot for - in Minnesota! What a lovely surprise. Well, anyway, Mike bought himself 2 ~~video~~ computer games & a thunder-board for the computer. We'd made a deal that our new \$1700 video camera would be our Christmas present & so would Nicholas, so I didn't buy him anything else. He bought me a 2 way baby monitor, which will be really nice to be able to hear Nicholas. Mike's parents gave us a rocker recliner & \$50, & gave me \$250 to buy each of the kids a Sunday outfit, which I did. They also told us to get a gas insert & they'd pay \$100/month till it's paid off! We had a nice Family Party at Carries on Monday, the 21st we gave - from Santa - Michelle: leather Franklin Planner, calendar storage binder, a watch, paper & covers for Mads scrapbook, and 2 bunnies - with a madrigal dress & concert choir dress, to go with her

(as we put the letters in brackets so now it works
down!)



Sound Ideas Bunny from last year. They turned out so cute! Brett got a CD carrier, CD mini stereo speakers shirt & tie, & a leather basketball. Aaron - King's Quest II, basketball cards & holders, alarm clock & basketball. Matt - mountain bike (used - he sk'd it at a garage sale) cards & holders, & a B Ball. Salma - remote control car (which doesn't work) a neat watch, 2 cars for the race track from last year, & a B Ball. Morgan - tape player, lots of cars, Batman Cape - I made & it's awesome. Nicholas - some JP toys. Rex & Carrie gave us some decorative Christmas pillows & the video "Hook" in a basket with pop, popcorn & m & m's. We gave - all together - his parents an automatic bread maker. My bro & sis' gave my parents \$ for a snowblower, & I made a flower 1/2 wreath which was beautiful.

Anyway, we had a lovely Christmas - very laid back and relaxed. Still, I'm glad it's over.

Jan 3, 1993

Happy New Year!! Well, what an amazing week. On Monday morning Dec 28, Mike went in for same day surgery for his sinus. It was supposed to be 1 hour surgery, & it lasted 2 1/2 hours. Dr. Stock came in and explained to me that he'd had a bit of a problem - while he was up between the eyes, getting some polyps out, he punctured the bone & nicked the dura, which allowed brain/spinal fluid out. So the dr had to cut behind Mike's ear & take out some muscle covering & put a patch up there. Mike was in intensive care for 2 days & in the hospital 1 more day. So I was back & forth to the hospital - take care - for 4 days. I'd feed the baby, go over there, miss a feeding & Michelle would give him a bottle, then go home, feed him, back to hospital, miss another feeding & so on until I was absolutely exhausted! He was kept in the hospital mostly as a precaution - the major problem is the possibility of meningitis - infection in the brain. So we had a hospital bed delivered - FHP is covering all of this fortunately. Anyhow, he has to sleep at 45° & no lower for 10 days, so another week I guess. Friday & Sat night I ran out of milk - I had to give the baby a bottle! I think I've got it back now though. Anyway, I'm awfully grateful that everything's OK & he's doing so well. When I walked into the ICU & saw him hooked up to all those monitors, with an oxygen mask on his face & my thought was - "I'll have to go through heart surgery with him!" But it was scary. He's pretty much back to normal - we've got the hospital bed set up in the family room.



Jan 10, 1993

Well, not a lot has happened this past week. Mike was home all week, & so were Salmage & Matt, but it really wasn't too crazy. Mike was up a little more each day, & he went to work for 6 hours Friday. He was at church from 7:45 to 4:30, then from 6:30-8 or 8:30? (He's still gone to a friendside.) He said he's been blessed & supported to be able to do it. He's supposed to go to Denver at 6:30 am, but with the snow, I'm not sure he'll get there. We've had 24" of snow in the last 4 days & it's still snowing! We've had 100" in the past 3 months. It's beautiful but kinda scary if you have to drive anywhere. There sure is a lot of snow! I am feeling better than I have in months. I've been doing more, & trying to catch up with everything! I did get my room & bathroom clean and vacuumed & bed made! It looks so wonderful. Boy are things kept down dirty! Mike's parents came over on Christmas & I mentioned our vacuum was broken, so they gave us a really nice vacuum. They are also going to give us \$100/month to get a gas fireplace! That will be so nice. They've sure been helpful & supportive during this last couple of weeks.


January 25, 1993

Happy 12th Birthday Matthew George Williams!

Last Friday I took Matt & Aaron to Crossroads & ZCMU mall & we looked ALL OVER for a coat for him - I was Pooped! We didn't find anything, so Mike took him on Saturday to Jaxton Hills & he bought a GIANTS coat - really nice \$150 coat - 1/2 price. Tonight we went as a family to see Aliadin - it was really good. Nicholas ate thru the first 1/3, & slept the remaining 2/3. He's such an angel.

Matthew is really a wonderful kid - most of the time. He is a really good worker and is almost always willing to run get this or that and do lots of things to help me out. He does well in school & is amazingly good at the computer - his teacher is very impressed. He's been spending a lot of time with Mark Erickson - he's so good to play with him. I know Mark's mom really appreciates it. He plays mostly with Colby Cook and he's absolutely crazy about Basketball. He's really good. Dad Brett says Matt is going to be really good when he gets older - cuz he's so good now! Matt is a good boy & really desires to do what's right. He's usually the first to support a new program in the family. He does have occasional rebellious fits, but they're not very often or long lasting. We love him a lot!

February 7, 1993

Today we blessed our beautiful little 7th child - Nicholas Wilson Williams. He is such a special little boy! Mom & Dad brought Vicki down yesterday so we had a nice visit. I stayed up till 1 AM to get the house cleaned - so tired! Bless Vicki's heart - she stayed up with me! All of Mike's family attended the blessing, and Mom & Dad, Vicki & Abbey, & Michael Morgan came with them too. Judy & John are coming later this week. Nick woke up for the blessing, then was a little fussy, then slept thru most the meeting. What an angel. Mike bore a beautiful testimony, then Michelle did, then I did. What a neat family we have. As I mentioned in my testimony, one reason it's neat to have a baby is because my older children have turned out to be such neat people & it's exciting to see that - & how much I love all of them. We had lunch & took lots of pictures then everybody left! Mom & Dad were going to stay till tomorrow, but something was wrong with his car & he was worried about it so he said "let's go" & they did! So Vicki had to go anyway! I was sad because I was planning on her staying. But at least she got to come! She & Linda gave me a beautiful puff quilt in primary colors - they made it at Sister's day. Carrie gave me a darling little play suit - so cute! We really have a neat family. And lots of blessings. I was sustained as RS Secretary last Sunday - it will be a fun job. Also, 2 weeks ago we ordered a Nordic Track & got it last week. I've been using it & am up to 12 minutes! It's really neat. Mike found out he's going to get a NICE bonus \$12,000! So we're spending it right & left. He wants to get a grand piano!!?

Feb 8 - Nick's 8wk check - got his shots
weighs 11 lbs 9 oz 23" long
Everything A-OK!

Feb 12, 1993

Morgan Floyd Williams is 5 years old! I cannot believe my little buddy is five already. Judy & John & their family came down on Wednesday so we had a little party tonight. Judy made Chimichangas and they were really yummy. I made him a car cake & we gave him a computer game "Kid works II", a little airplane, clinky, & puzzle. Also an Alladin book, tape & watch, which he loves. The computer game is really neat - all the kids like it. You can write stories, color pictures, draw pictures etc. The computer reads your stories out loud. He thinks it's awesome to have his very own computer program.

Morgan is such a sweet little boy. He has had a little bit of adjustment to having a new baby around. I know I don't give him enough attention. For a while there, he was chewing on his clothes but he's not doing it anymore. He still sucks his index finger almost all the time - everybody bugs him about it & I don't think it helps. He covers it with a blanket or even his other hand so I know he feels it's bad & he needs to hide it. I'm afraid that makes it harder to quit.

But - he's so cute. He generally cooperates and is quite cheerful. He loves preschool and does really well. His teacher says he's a peacemaker! Kind of surprising, but not really. He's very sensitive & cries if he gets reprimanded. He can be sorta mean back to his brothers when they bug him. He can really scream at them too. "Why, you WITTLE!" He's such a cute boy & growing up SO FAST! I buzzed his hair about a month ago & it really aged him. He doesn't look so sweet & I like it better longer, but he likes it buzzed because he doesn't have to comb it! He has got absolutely the longest thickest eyelashes! We're so glad he's part of our family.

Feb 25, 1993

Brett Michael Williams is 16 years old!
Wo! One thing we don't have to worry about is him driving, because we told him years ago he couldn't drive until he got his eagle and all he has to do is a service project. We decided he must have a hard time talking to adults! Anyway, he is driving in driver's Ed, so I hope the pressure will influence him to get going on it!

Brett has really grown up this past year - and I mean in many ways. He's 5'11" & weighs about 135 lbs. I can't believe how tall he is! His goal is to be 6'4" & if wishin can do it, he will be! I think he'll be lucky to be 6 ft. tall. So physically - he's grown.

Spiritually - he's 6'4" for his age! The experience he had last summer getting lost in the mountains really changed his behavior and his attitude. He really trusts in God & appreciates the atonement like ~~some~~ most people never do. It's really neat.

Emotionally he's much more mature. He still is a teenager but he tries to get his brothers to stop fighting - usually by yelling at them - but he'll say "It doesn't matter - it's only a game" or something like that. He also tells me he loves me - often. He really seems to appreciate me for a mom, even though sometimes I like to smack him - it's a good natured loving relationship. He very rarely makes me want to scream anymore!

Mentally - he got straight A's last semester! Wo! I'm impressed! He's finally decided to do it! Yea! Yea! He's so smart & he figured out it's not that hard to just do it. This been on the sophomore team this year



and it's been really fun for him. He didn't get to play very much, but he was a good bench warmer and had a very positive attitude, even though I complained he never got to play! The one game he played a lot in (5 or 6 minutes) we missed! We did get to see him play for a few minutes though.

This has really been a great year for Brett & I love him a lot. Last week, Mike took him to Seattle & Portland, and they had a really great time. Mike had some good talks with Brett, and one thing Brett said was "well, I hope this isn't bragging, but I hope your grandchildren turn out as good as your children!" So he thinks he's doing O.K. too!

We sure do love him and are so grateful that he's turned out to be such a really neat kid! Person! Young man! In 3 years he'll be going on a mission and I really think he'll be a great missionary!

Sixes, he's really CUTE!

March 15 1993

Jalmage Don Williams is 9 years old! We had a lot of fun - we went bowling and to Pizza Hut, then Mike bought him a Sega Genesis - a fancier nintendo, which we've been praying would break!! It looks like a fun game, and I'm sure the kids will enjoy it. Jalmage's best friend is Johnathon Ditto - they get along really well. He's a cute boy. Jalmage has a really nice teacher this year - it's been a really good school year this year. Her name is Mrs Doty, & she really likes him, & he is doing really well. He is a good artist, a good reader, & his handwriting is really nice. He's super at math, & he just loves math! Amazing. He's getting lots better at cleaning up his room - not easy when you have 2 younger brothers in your room! He really hates to empty the garbages, but when he decides to do it, he does a great job. Once in a while, he gets his work done & his practicing done in the morning - & that is great. Jalmage loves to wear a suit on Sunday & he always takes his scriptures. He's a good boy, & wants to do what is right. His primary teachers really like him too. The one thing that really bothers me about Jalmage is that he not only asks a lot of questions, but he asks questions without thinking - like "What baby? What crib? Who's diapers?" Makes me crazy!! But he's cute & intelligent & we love him a lot. He's played soccer and basketball this year, and he's learned and improved a lot. He's a sweet boy & we love him a lot & are glad he's part of our family. He Really loves his baby Nicholas!

March 17-19, 1993 - The Wigwam!

Last week, 9-13, Michelle was in the school production of Bye Bye Birdie & it turned out really cute. She didn't have a "name" part, so she felt bad at first - (only 2 medleys, didn't get name parts.) She recovered really well and just enjoyed herself.

Mike & I and Nick ~~came~~ to Arizona. We flew down - Nick was super. The Wigwam is a super luxury resort - wow! It's really beautiful. We walked around and enjoyed the warm weather. Then Mike had a big meeting and I sat in the room & read & watched t.v. I was too cheap to order dinner, I didn't want to go out with Nick, so I ate junk. On Thursday, there was something wrong with the fire alarms - they went off all over the place, so I grabbed Nick & went out on the balcony - I shut the door! It looked like I was in my jammies - but fortunately I was wearing their thick terry robe, & I had what Nick needed. It was funny - I had security & everybody over. Mike was at a meeting. We stopped in Old Scottsdale & ate & walked around - it was nice. He flew home - I couldn't stay longer. It was what we did for my birthday, so we didn't do much else besides laundry!


April 23, 1993

Aaron Spencer Williams is 14 years old! I cannot believe how much he has grown up in the past year. He's getting taller and broader. He's really hairy - I guess he "mentions" it to Brett, & Brett says rude things back to him. Aaron is a real book worm - he loves fantasy books & even though I like him to read, I wish he'd diversify and read some other things.

Aaron is still fairly quiet - and sneaky, like he was as a little kid. He does explode occasionally & fights with Brett & Matt & Salma - yells & hits, but is generally pretty low key. I sometimes worry about him and what he's really thinking. He made it into Madrigals for next year - I can't believe it! I think it'd be great if he went into music. I think Aaron has great potential - he's really intelligent and talented - but he's getting C's & D's on his report card, and he hasn't ever gotten anywhere with his piano. I feel bad about that, but I just haven't had the energy to push. I've given up on Matt, too.

About Aaron, Michelle says: "I'm impressed with the accomplishments he's made for next year - Madrigals & Yearbook." Brett: "He's kind & gentle." Matt: "He's fun & he around - he's a good kid."

I think Aaron really desires to do what is right. He has a great spirit but I worry that he tends to go with the flow and go wherever. I am glad he'll be on Yearbook & in Madrigals - I think they will help him get things done. We love Aaron a lot, I am so glad that he's part of our family.

May 5, 1993

Michelle is 18 years old! What a beautiful young woman she's turned out to be. She just returned from her trip to California with Madregals. She has had such a fun year in Mads - even though it's been hard at times. She's had a pretty positive experience and it's been good for her. It's still hard for me to believe she's a senior in high school. She has really matured a lot - she's much more level-headed and emotionally stable. She sure hasn't done a lot of work around here - she's been so busy. She & Ben Blauw seem to be getting closer than ever - she had a lot of fun on the trip. I sure did miss her while she was gone - it was an interesting taste of what it'll be like when she goes to college. She's been accepted to BYU & Heritage Hall, so she's excited & so are we. She didn't, however, get a scholarship, which was a disappointment and a worry for us. I'm sure everything will work out OK. She's a great daughter & we really love her - it is about time for her to be getting out on her own. She's really getting independent.

May 20, 1993

Michelle's Madrigal Concert was really great - all their songs from the whole year including their California trip. We were so proud of her - what a sweetheart. So cute! She sang a solo & it was good - & they had the parents go up & they sang to us - it was neat. I thought I'd bowl my head off, but I didn't. Neat girl - neat experience.

Wed June 2, 1993

This afternoon our daughter, Michelle Marie Williams, graduated with high honors from Viewmont High School. We took Brett with us & we had the camera all ready and Mike was changing the battery when she was announced so we missed her on video! She sat on the front row of the stage - Concert Choir and Mads sang. In fact, the school board banned all prayers this year, worried that it was unconstitutional. As Mads got up to sing, Nate Moon stepped forward and offered a prayer. It was so neat - nearly everyone stood up and gave him a standing ovation. Mike commented that in our day, we rebelled a lot different than that. The principal & school board members didn't seem too thrilled. Afterwards, we took Michelle Brett & Wendy Webb, Michelle's friend to the Inn at Temple Square for dinner. It was really nice. The school sponsored an all night party - we went over & checked it out - it was really neat. Food, games, fun etc. What a great idea! She had a lot of fun, especially since she got to spend the night with Ben! Oh, he kept asking Michelle last April - who he should ask to Prom & she'd say "You said you'd take me!" so we bought material (\$80) to make her a formal - then he asked the Head Cheerleader! Michelle felt so bad & I was mad at the turkey. On Thursday before the dance, I was talking to Linda, & asked her if Travis & Teddy Tobey, their German Exchange student, would like to come down & take Michelle & a friend to Prom - & they did! It was so sweet of them - they had a fun time. Anyway, Ben now regrets taking Sandy & wonders why he didn't take Michelle. Us too!! One funny thing they were in line for pix, & he said "I hate it because everyone always asks how I spell my last name (Berkhardt). Michelle said just use my last name!" So when they asked his name, he said "Toby Williams." The girl said "How do you spell Williams?" Michelle said "W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S," when Toby said "I know how to spell my own name!" She had a fun time.

Naumoo Trip



July 10-19, 1993

This was the neatest thing we've ever done in our whole married life! We were planning on leaving on Wednesday, July 7, but a friend died of liver cancer on July 5, 2 months & 1 week after learning he had cancer. They gave him 2-6 months to live. It was Brett's best friend's Dad, & he was Mike's 1st Counselor until they split the ward. So anyway, we changed our reservation cuz Mike had to sing at the funeral & we wanted to be there.

We left Centerville at 3:15 pm & arrived in Cheyenne Wyoming at Jim & Colleen's house about 11:15. We had a nice visit & saw their 'new' 30 yr old house. It's in really good shape & seems to be a nice area. We got up & went to church with them, then departed at 1:15 & headed towards Denver. Mike wanted to show the kids where he works when he goes to Denver, but we took the wrong exit and got lost in a bad part of town. When we finally did get downtown, we got stuck in traffic & there's tearing up the roads - it was awful. We finally got out of there & ate at a village Inn & got on our way again around 5 or 6. We drove straight to Hays, Kansas, where we stayed at an old yucky motel b. Boy were they excited about it! Specially since the pool was closed. Mike had some work to finish up so we didn't get out of there until after 1, so I was a bit frustrated. But we had a nice trip & arrived around 6 at Independence, Missouri & I was touched that we were really there! The RLDS thing were closed, so we drove up to Liberty & ate a Pizza Hut. Then we went to Super 8 - lots nicer. (And twice as much!) Anyway, while we were waiting for Mike to sign in, we saw fireflies! Wow, it was so neat - like magic little lights flashing on & off, & you never knew where you'd see them next!



Nauvoo trip

The next morning we packed up to leave, when Mike noticed a bump on the left rear tire. He took us to Liberty Jail, then went & got the tires replaced it took 2 hrs. So we toured the jail - it was really sad & touching to see what Joseph Smith went through, but he really learned a lot there. Then the sister missionaries let us watch some videos while we waited. Then we went back to Independence in a driving rainstorm and went to the RLDS auditorium and temple. Really different - interesting. I didn't want to take the time, but Mike felt it was worth it. I guess it was a neat experience for the kids & us - to not feel the spirit - it was so empty, dead, different. The next place we went was Far West - once a boom town of 2000. Now it's a beautiful fenced & landscaped site. Just the cornerstones of the temple, but the spirit there was great. Then we went to Adam Ondi Ahmen and again, a beautiful, sacred spot. Perfect for a General Conference with the Savior! Then we went back down to the main freeway across the state - closed because of the 'Great Flood of 93' - the bridges were sat! So back up almost to Lehi & we took route 6 - a 2 way little up & down highway all across the state. When we got to Quincy, one of the 2 bridges was closed because the road was under water. They told us the other side was local traffic only. Mike said I need to get to Quincy tonight! The guy said, well we can't guarantee you'll make it back home! So over we went. (Mike we got lost & couldn't find the road to Nauvoo & finally didn't believe me!) So we drove around & around & finally called our motel in Nauvoo & they told us we got there at 2:15 am & boy were we tired! We spent 2 wonderful, spiritual, peaceful, fun days in Nauvoo & Carthage. The things those wonderful people went through. Carthage was really special too. The spirit was strong there. We saw some flooding & experienced some problems.



Nauvoo

but they weren't too bad. While in Nauvoo we went to two shows put on by the missionaries & they were lots of fun. It's what Michelle wants to do next summer, I think. We went to a printshop, gun shop, wagon builders, blacksmith, bakery, store, Joseph Smith's home & mansion house - drank from his well & visited his grave. We went to the red brick store, brickyard, schoolhouse, Wilford Woodruff, Helen Kimball Brigham Young etc. etc! It was so interesting and informative & the kids were really good. I'm so glad we took Nicholas with us - he was so darling. One night, after the performance we went out to the sculpture gardens & just sat there - the kids were chasing fireflies - it was so beautiful & just magical. So beautiful! Such a beautiful, peaceful place! We just loved it here & hated to leave. The kids really felt the spirit too, I think. On Friday, July 16, we left Nauvoo & drove up to Burlington, Iowa & got across the river. I bought T-shirts saying "I survived the flood of '93 on the Mississippi!" The way home was really neat because we tried to follow the Mormon Trail home. We stopped & played in a park in Centerville, Iowa! That was fun. The first really exciting stop was at Garden Grove, because some of our ancestors mentioned it in their histories. We went to the cemetery & it was so beautiful, peaceful, & pastoral! What a sweet spirit there! Rolling, green hills - totally different than I expected! Then we went to Mt Pisgah & the same feeling was there. We got to Council Bluffs about 11 & stayed in an OK motel. There was so much history everywhere along the way! The next morning, Saturday, we went to the Cemetery at Council Bluffs. It was a great experience & we saw a wagon with the odometer, a thatched roof cabin & David Fairbanks' glorious statue of the parents grieving over their dead child. We drove pretty much straight through the day, reading about the pioneers but not stopping much. I wish we would've stopped at the Pioneer Museum in Grinnell or the State Museum in Grand Island. It was rainy most of the day. We got to Ogallala about 4 pm. We probably should have

Nauvoo

stopped & stayed in North Platte, because there wasn't a wood
n branch in Ogallala. However, the Stagecoach Inn was really
nice & the boys & Mike had fun in the water. Poor little
Morgan stepped off the step into the 3 feet & didn't know what
to do - Mike got him quickly but it was scary for all of us.
We got up at 6 & left at 7 am! To go to Scottsbluff for
church - we got there at 9:15 & sacrament meeting got out
early! So we only went for about a half hour. We should've
stayed for the block. We went to Rebecca Winters grave -
the railroad moved around it. All along the way, we'd
seen this Pace Arrow RV from Utah & they were there too!
They said "we wouldn't have found it if we hadn't seen your
van!" They were from Centerville, too! It was funny.
One of the very most impressive & moving things we saw was
the wagon route monument at Guernsey, Wyoming. They
were worn through solid rock. Very sobering. Wyoming was
when it started, looking like real pioneer country. Nebraska
was pretty flat - but still green. Wyoming is dead. We
saw Ayer's Arch too - a beautiful red arch in the middle of
nothing with a lovely picnic area around it. The pioneers
mentioned it & went out of their way to see it. We stayed in
Casper - wrote in our journals & had a discussion about the
things we'd experienced. We have the greatest kids! They were
so great throughout the trip. One of the best things we did,
thanks to our neighbors, the Erickson's, was to put 4 milk
crates in the back of the van with a plywood board on top, a foam
pad, & blankets. That way, one of us - or 2 - was always laying
down in back. A couple of times I took Nick back there
& passed him & slept. He learned to take a bottle really well.
Anyway, that night we got pizza & ate & talked. It was
so neat! Monday a.m. I woke up early, fed Nick, then went
to the pool with the boys. I played keep away with them &
it was a blast! I laughed & laughed. But said "mom, we
never hear you laugh like that!" It was so fun. We



Nauvoo Trip

headed out across Wyoming. It was so desolate you could almost hear the wagons creaking! And DRY!! We had gotten used to the humidity in the east & could feel the moisture being sucked out of us! We got a little lost in Casper, but finally found Ft. Casper & visited the museum there. Then we went to Independence Rock. Wow! What a neat mountain. All of us except Michelle & Nikolas climbed up to the top - I could see the whole district stretched out below us! Then we visited Devils Gate, Martin Cove Area, split rock - all famous spots on the trail. There were several other places we would have liked to visit, but time got too short. It's really too long to see & do justice to in one day - I'd stay at Rock Springs or something like that if possible. Anyway, we went home from Echo Junction thru Morgan because it was too late to go thru Emigration Canyon. We got home at 10pm. The closer to home we got, I felt like turning the car around! I know it was a wonderful trip and I really did not want it to end! No phones, well, almost... we spent \$69 on Mike's cellular phone! No friends, no meetings, no putting! I loved not cooking or cleaning - it was a wonderful vacation! I'm so grateful for my ancestors & for all the early saints & what they went through. Especially for Joseph Smith & the sacrifices he made, & the great man he was. On July 24, we went back to Echo Junction and through Helper and up Emigration Canyon. Wow, what an experience to go over Big Mountain! Everyone should see that - vistas of mountains - snow & snow-capped peaks! We took the whole family, plus Ben & had a really nice time. He & Michelle sure are close! I think it's neat. I thought that was a wonderful vacation & I'm so glad we did it, & so grateful we could!


November 14, 1993

I cannot believe how long it's been since I've written - a lot has happened! Everyone is back in school - Michelle's at BYU! Brett's a junior, Aaron 9th, Matt 7th, Jason 4th, Morgan Kindergarten & they all seem to be enjoying it! Michelle got a Custodial job from 4-8 am and it's really hard on her, but she just didn't work or save any money this summer and I feel she should contribute something toward her education. We're paying her housing (\$1300) and her 1st semester tuition (\$1100) and her books & food etc for the first month. She's been working for about a month & hopefully will be able to save \$500 to pay part of her tuition. Now she wishes she'd have saved some money! One good thing was just when her tuition was due, Mike got a \$1500 award from work so we felt like she got a scholarship from Heavenly Father, even though BYU didn't give her one! That was a real slap in the face - we always planned on her getting one, so when she didn't, we felt really bad. Especially since so many friends got full scholarships to Weber, Snow & the U! Oh well - we're doing OK! Gene & Michelle are really serious - she says "I love you" to him on the phone! And I get the idea they're pretty mushy - but they both want him to go on a mission so hopefully they're holding things down! She's been home nearly every weekend - but she got called to be a gospel doctrine teacher! So if she comes home she goes back Sunday morning!

Oh, my grandpa died a couple of weeks ago - just a week before that, I went up and bought his car. Last spring he told us he'd sell it to us, but we let him keep it until he didn't need it anymore. He's always been in great health until a stroke at the cabin in July, then they put him in a rest home. & he got pneumonia. I saw him the night before he died - he was in a wheelchair & looked pretty good! Beautiful blue eyes! Mike sang "O Divine Redeemer" at the funeral & Michelle accompanied him.



We paid \$1700 for his 85 Chev Celebrity - it has 45,500 miles on it. It's in pretty good shape except for all the dings & dents on the corners & wheelwells! Brett's been driving it a lot and really enjoys it. Michelle doesn't think it's real fair that we bought Brett a car! Oh well, we do what we can. Brett tried out for the VHS Basketball team last week and got cut! He felt so bad! His whole life ambition has been to play basketball, & since he was on the soph. team, he really thought he'd make it. Only 3 juniors made it! So it's been a sad week around here. Plus, this girl in our ward whom he can't stand took him to the Halloween dance! Then 2 days later another girl in our ward asked him to the Christmas dance! She's a nice girl, but he doesn't really know (unlike her.) Last night Terda told me she's heard EVERYBODY wants to take Brett & the kid. Susan Judge told me the same thing! He has grown like a weed! He's 6-2 1/2"! Our little scrawny baby boy! He's really a cutie. He got all A's & one B on this report card. And Aaron got A's & B's so he's doing better. He is really growing up too - so cute and really a nice kid. He's doing well in Maths - we went to the 1st concert & they were cute. He's taller than Aaron. He's had problems with ingrown toenails & we had them cut out at the doctor's 4 or 5 times but we finally took him to the podiatrist last Friday & had both sides of both big toes cut out & hopefully this should prevent any more - it's been real painful for him. He likes 7th grade, but we made the mistake of putting him in algebra & he just floundered - he's always been good in math, & his teacher thought he could do it - but it was too much, so we transferred him to pre-algebra, and

I think he'll feel a lot better about himself and math. He's doing pretty good & we get along pretty well, altho occasionally he still has his little fits. Ialmoz is doing quite well in a 4/8 split - even though he's a bit of an air head about things. Last time they were off track, he & Justin Baguella worked hours & hours on a hut they made out of scrap lumber and about a million nails. It was cute but really dangerous so we had it peeled off. Ialmoz was really wetting the bed almost every night when he went back on track. I gave him some pulsatilla the day after Halloween & he's wet a couple of times but I think he wakes up, so I hope it helps. I'm tentatively getting into Homeopathy's with Judy - I gave Michelle Lycopodium 200 yesterday to see if that will help her even out her moods. Ialmoz's nose still gets gross & I'd like to find something to help that - Morgan is doing great in kinder garten "I think it's fun" he says. I like "doin' puppets and playin in my centers." One day he was working and his teacher said "How you doin' Morgan?" And he said "My Dad's the Bishop!" I don't know how that realization came to him, but she sure got a kick out of it! He's really maturing - a lot! He's a really cute little guy, but kind of overly sensitive & bawls a lot. He still sucks his finger. Pick - ah, I could write a LOT about my cute little pickle! He is nearly 1 and so so cute! He has brought a ton of joy into our home & we love him so much!! He's walking around things & the other day, even let go of me for a second & tried to reach a chair! His teeth are all so close but none have come through yet. I'm only nursing him once or twice during the day & he's not real interested, so that won't be long. Overall, I really feel a deep

love for my children & we're getting along pretty good. I do feel somewhat frustrated in my housewifely duties - it seems so hopeless and unappreciated! But I hate it when it's messy all the time & I'm embarrassed if anyone sees it. Plus, I feel so fat - this stomach of mine! I look 7 mo. pregnant, so we GOT to do something. I've been doing Nordic Track since the kids went to school, but I've had a hard time this past week - my back has really been hurting so it's hard to make myself exercise! Anyway, I really need to lose about 40 or 50 lbs & get rid of this gut! Mike & I went to ZCU last week and bought 2 new dresses - size 16! Better than I expected. I tried on 20's but they were huge so I felt better - a little. I'd really like to be a 12 - or 10!

Dec 6, 1993

Nicholas is 1 whole year old! What a delightful, beautiful little boy he is. It's amazing to me how much we all love him - he's so sweet! It's so endearing how he loves each one of us - but especially me! He holds his arms out, then hugs me, puts his head on my shoulder, and pats my back. It's so sweet. He's really a mover, tho' it's hard to change his diaper - he moves so fast! He can go up the stairs in no time - and he loves to do it! He walks around furniture and if he has something in his hands, he'll stand up on his own until he realizes he's not standing with support, & he'll sit down. He loves to steal my earrings - especially in church - course, that's about the only time I wear them anymore! Nick has a tooth! After looking like it

would erupt for about 3 months, his top left front
tooth finally came through on the 2nd of December! So
exciting! He says ma-ma - mom, dada, da, bye bye
and nana (banana) and grk (drink). He's very
expressive and communicates very well by looking
at something and yelling or demanding. He loves to
stand up in his high chair - even with his seat belt on.
He loves to tease. He'll show us his tooth by grinning
& blinking, but looking to make sure we're watching
him! He loves the pretty lights & says wowwowwow
and when the kids shh! him he says shh! He makes
all sorts of funny sounds whenever anybody else
does - he's a great copy cat.
What can I say about my tuckle? Only that it's
been really hard on my physically & have this
baby - both pregnancy & since - but he's been
worth every bit of it - I wouldn't trade him for
anything - even a skinny body! I guess after
realizing how fast these little ones grow up, I'm more
appreciative of how sweet & little they are, and for
such a short time! I'm done nursing Nick - it
happened very naturally last week, tho it was
an effort to get up and feed him breakfast instead
of taking him to bed & nursing him - he doesn't
seem to miss it at all! The thing I miss most of
all is the cuddling - if he's on my lap, he wants
to get down! He doesn't like to just sit. He's so
cute though - I just love him! He's getting to be
quite a handful at church - especially the last
hour - I don't know what to do with him!
He loves to play the piano - either sitting on the
bench or standing & reaching up to the keyboard. He
also goes in the bathroom whenever possible - There's a
strong attraction to the toilet! One time he put the

rubber duckie in. He's such an angel - I hope
he doesn't turn into a brat! I'm so grateful
to have him as part of our family.

The week before Thanksgiving, a guy in our
ward came & fixed the sheetrock around the
fireplace, downstairs where they cut out for
the gas line, & the kitchen where it had leaked.
I bought a bunch of paint, and the weekend
after Thanksgiving we painted the
entry, kitchen, hall up the stairs, and family
room. It's grey with white doors and baseboards,
& Mike is putting white wainscoting up. It
looks really nice. What a big difference!

Dec 13 - Nicholas got his 2nd tooth - one over from
his 1st one - kinda weird. What a cute grin, tho

Dec 25, 1993 Christmas
What a month! Mike & I decided to go to Hong Kong
for our 20 anniversary next year, so we're going
Jan 13! Wo! Also, Mike's parents gave us \$500 for
a couch & we looked everywhere! I could find one
I thought I wanted, but we kept going back to
this huge comfortable \$2000 couch-sectional - & we
finally got it! It's light-med blue with other
subtle colors in it, velour, 6 pieces, including 2
recliners! It's great. Now with our new, toasty
warm fireplace & comfy, nice looking couch, it seems
a very comfortable - the whole family + Ben! It's really
nice & we're thrilled. Michelle's tuition came up due
again & lo & behold Mike got another "spot award" for
\$1000! net (after taxes)! So we feel really blessed but it confirms
me that she hasn't saved any money - She's still thick as can



he with Ben - in fact, one night she took him home & didn't get in until 4:30!! So Mike had a good 1 1/2 hrs with them & they decided not to kiss anymore! That'll be hard. They're still pretty lovey-dovey tho. They've talked about marriage & have set a date - 9/6/96! Course, she says they're just going on a date that day! Ya, right. I just wish he'd get out on his mission.

It's see - Christmas was another big spending spree! Michelle got a camera, planner refill & undies & socks - Brett got a \$249 CD player (he's paying us \$130 back!) & a bb. Aaron got some computer games, CD's, & a \$50 BB. Matt got a CD player & BB (they all got books, calendar, & gloves). Salma got a mountain bike & some elec cars for his race set BB. Morgan got a remote control car & a BB & smuzzi - Ielm too! Nick got a rocking horse & assorted toys. Mike got a computer game (sigh) and a noisy model of the US Enterprise from Star Trek (he bought it at a toy store \$30).

I got a mixer (I bought) some Russian nesting dolls, & tickets to Hong Kong! (Like they're really for me!) And a couch (ditto!) But I love the couch & I really am excited for Hong Kong. We gave his dad a book & his mom a sweater & she loved it! I was so excited. She even wore it over here Christmas day. They gave us \$300 for the couch and \$40 for each kid so they all got clothes from her!

We gave my mom a bathroom rug set & Dad 2 books! They gave us an air bed & the kids each got Candy or Cookies. His folks & Sherie's family came over & spent most the day on Christmas & we had a like lunch. Rex & Carrie came over that night. It was a nice day.

We had about 30 families bring us treats - including Ben! He brought us a 1/2 bushel basket full of fruit & peanuts - & a really nice card! And his mom sent some muffins over. Raline Sutherland gave me a little wooden figure that says "Housework makes you ugly" I cracked up. I gave it to Jilly. But I don't think she enjoyed it too much. (She gave it back!)

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Dec 27-28 We went to Idaho for the Family Christmas party. Rachel had her baby - a girl, Morgan! - on the 27th. It was fun. We all gave ourselves Muesenhausen T-shirts & exchanged white elephants. It was fun but a borell. We took Mike & Beck - Judy's boys, with us. We stayed at Steve & Kendas house. They got a big screen TV for Christmas plus a couch & a seat table for the family room - since I've been there she got a new dining room set & drapes in her girls room. They have everything & it's hard to not be jealous! But I have plenty.

January was spent getting ready for our trip to Hong Kong! Oh, the planning and the packing! Because we were going to be gone on Matt's birthday we had his birthday before we left.

Matthew George Williams Officially became a Teenager! This has been kind of a hard year for Matt, going through puberty. He's been casual pretty good, but has those screaming fits about things and is very negative and contrary at times. We put him in Algebra at the first of the year & he had a really hard time (D) so we switched him at term to pre algebra & he is doing fine. (A-) Matt is still quite helpful & if we're getting ready, he's still the most help. Really a good worker if he's in the mood. I think the Jantrums are not quite as often as they were earlier. He loves basketball & is really good at it. He hangs around with Colby look most of the time, but does stuff with lots of kids. He seems to be doing OK in school & getting along OK with others. He really loves Muefen & is so cute with him! I really love Matt a lot & it's fun to see him growing up.

HONG KONG

Thursday

Friday

January 13, 1994 - Jan 14

We left SLC at 8:30 am & landed in L.A. about 11. We walked around outside to enjoy the warm weather. We got on the plane & took off about 12:30 pm. We flew at about 39,000 ft, 500 mph, 4:30 AM MST Jan 14. But it was 7:30 pm Jan 15! We got our luggage (4 lg suitcases & 2 carryons,) hopped in a taxi, & came to our Hotel - Stanford Hillview. It's small, but adequate (except no drawers!) We're in rm 1204, looking out at HK island. We unpacked a little & wandered the streets until we were both exhausted & hungry. We ate at a place called the "American Cafe". While just sitting & relaxing, Mike heard some girls - 5 or 6 - (20 yr olds about) talking about the mormon church. One girl was either a member or very knowledgeable investigator, & Mike felt she did a great job. We went to bed about 8:30, it being 27 hours since we got up. We only slept about 2 hours on the plane. Very long & very uncomfortable! I hope the plane is less full on the way home so we can stretch out a little. It was ok - we watched 3 movies & read a whole book!

Jan 15 Saturday

This morning was a little chilly & overcast. I still just wore a sweater tho I was usually OK. We walked to Sheldon Poon's office, where we had to fill out VISA forms & go find a place to have our picture taken for the visas. Then we walked to Star Ferry & took the ferry to HK Island. We took a double decker bus to Gam Tong Hall & wandered around.

there, altho the mission office etc were closed, so we didn't get much accomplished. We walked all around & Mike showed me some places he remembered. Then we walked down Ladder Street, Hollywood Road, Cat Street, Man Wa Street etc. We saw a lot of antiques & a Flea Market - what a bunch of JUNK - I mean it was bad! But a lot of fun. I don't know why, but I just didn't feel like buying anything. We got on the trolley - double decker, & rode from one end of the island to the other - to Kennedy Town & back to Shau Kei Wan. It was fun - so many fun things to see! Fish markets, food, junk, stuff, everything you can imagine! In Shau Kei Wan we went up to the 13th floor of this yucky old building & saw where he lived for 6 months. We walked thru the market (oh gag!) Fresh live fish, fresh? Dead fish, dried fish, trays of squirming shrimp (yuk) & live fish I couldn't identify, and almost barfy - net bag of live frogs, smushed together & crawling all over each other! (Shudder) Eels etc - ugly things! Lots of fruits & veggies I couldn't identify, & many that I could. Clothes, piles of padded bras - what a hooot! Oh, while we were walking down the street, I saw a 6 or 7 year old little boy waddling back to his mother from the street - where she had just sent him to urinate! His pants were still down! I cracked up but Mike didn't notice - very common. Wouldn't Patine love it! We then took the subway back to Central & got out & walked around to see all the neat buildings. Oh, while

we were on the trams, we sat on the front
 (bus) seat & were right behind 2 little boys. I kept
 smiling & winking at them & pretty soon
 they were laughing & smiling & we took a
 picture & video of them. Chinese kids are SO
 cute! The babies are darling and FAT! There
 was a darling baby on the plane I just wanted
 to hug! I miss all my cute kids - especially
 my cute little baby! Anyway, at first their
 mom just sorta looked at me, but after a
 while she smiled & laughed too. This went on for
 probably 20 minutes. it was fun.

Jan 16 Sunday

Today was a day of running! We were
 up & out of here around 8 - on the subway
 under the harbor and running all around to find
 the Shau Kei Wan Ward. We finally found it
 1/2 hour late. A member had just returned
 from his mission in Singapore & was reporting.
 Mike didn't really know anyone there, but we
 did meet Elder Tai's secretary who had read Mike's
 letter & had our tickets at the mission home. Then we
 raced back under the harbor, to Mong Kok, then got
 a taxi & went to the Kowloon City Ward, which was just
 getting out. A Chinese sister stopped to say hi - to me
 then Mike came over & she knew him! She was a
 Sister missionary with Mike. Her husband had just
 been put in as Bishop in Tsim Sha Tsui Ward. Mike
 knew some people & we had a good talk with the Elder -
 one is the son of a missionary with Mike - so we had a

good talk with them. They invited us to a convert baptism - family of 4 - so we went to that. It was really sweet. Then we took the light public bus back home. We had a pizza delivered \$100 HK - \$13.00 Very good. Dominos?

Monday 17

We got a slow start today - first we went somewhere clear out somewhere to the church distribution center & got Mike a Chinese - English Hymn book. Then we took the car to Edm Karm Tong. Paul talked to President Lowe - the mission president. He said "If you ever get the chance - do it!" (Be a mission president.) Then we picked up our tickets to the temple groundbreaking, then caught a taxi to "Middle Kingdom". It was old Chinese recreation quite interesting. Then we took a taxi to Stanley Market - it was just closing, so we bought "2" health balls" & took a taxi to the Jumbo Restaurant - very good dinner. Then took a taxi back to HK to The Peak Tram, rode up to the top, walked around & WOW what a view!! It was absolutely stunning. We took the MTR back to our hotel. Tired!

Tuesday 18

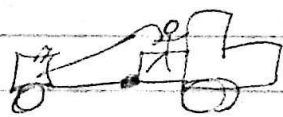
We got up, checked out & put 3 suitcases into storage. Then we walked around & did some shopping - we bought 2 video games - Aladdin for Morgan's birthday, and a 7 in 1 with different games. We found the place Jeff Cullison recommended for souvenirs - then we went back to the hotel & got on a bus to the airport - went to Guilin. The flight was good - short - about 1 hour. I think there was 1 other plane

~~Wednesday 17~~

at the airport we went out the plane & down the stairs - COLD! 4°C or about 39° ; it had been 72° in HK & I just had a sweater on. We ran into an big shed - Guilin Airport - Totally unheated - gave our health declarations to a guy, then went thru passport check, then waited for our bags. The conveyor belt came straight in from outside - only flaps for doors between. We were waved through customs - Red Army guards all over - I waved out the door, where there were 20 or so people. It was almost totally dark - empty! So strange after the crushing crowds of Hong Kong! A man walked up & said "Wil-yuns?" I nodded & off we went - Mike & I got into a car with 2 strange men in a strange country. He drove off down the road - a moment of panic, but then I was OK. It took about 45 minutes to get into town - & it was very primitive. He took us to a hotel for dinner - still cold - & we had an interesting meal. Basically Chinese, but very greasy and quite strange. The tangier at the end were wonderful - locally grown. Then he took us to our hotel - Holiday Inn. Beautiful room & bathroom - twice the size of our HK room - very nice - and warm. We were exhausted.

Wed 19

We got up early, had a pretty good breakfast at the hotel, & left in the car to go to the Li River. It took about an hour to get there - fascinating. Poor, poor, poor. Bicycles everywhere. Old machinery - these little wagons with a motor on the front almost like



a lawn mower motor - pulling a 2 wheeled trailer. Wide open - Cold. 3 men on 1

like - big fat pigs wandering around - brick factories. (See notes I wrote that day.) We drove to the river & waited on the boat for about 1 hour. It was cold - about 39°. We sat at a table with 2 Japanese girls - they were nice but could only speak a few words of English - & we know no Japanese. Anyway, they brought everybody tea - we said "no tea - just hot water." I'm sure they thought we were weird. The hot water helped warm us, & just holding the cup helped us stay warm. The boat was basically a room on a boat - no heat, back door open the whole trip! You could go up on top but it was so cold - couldn't stay up there long. Anyhow, the scenery was ABSOLUTELY breath-taking - it was so beautiful. And it went on & on & on - for 7 hours we were on the boat - (about 5 years too ~~old~~ long...) Lunch was really fun - Mongolian hot pot - a little pot with charcoal in the middle. There was broth in it, then they brought tons of meat & veggies & we put it in, cooked it, & ate it with rice. It was very good, very filling, & very warm.

The scenery was wonderful, but after 7 hours it all started looking the same, and the cold made it not quite so enjoyable. We finished the boat trip about 4:30, & there were stalls selling all sorts of stuff. They all said Hello! Hello! and tried to sell stuff. In fact, at one point on the river, the boat stopped, & little rafts came up & they started selling stuff. I bought a scarf for \$20 (\$2.60) and wrapped it around my neck - it helped. One man, with a live owl on his hat, was selling some beautiful fans. I sent Mike to get one - \$40. After he bought it, the man said \$30 - so Mike said OK, I gave him a \$50 bill, but the man just gave him 2 more fans - it was funny - so we ended up with 3 fans for \$90! (\$2.80us). Then Mike bought a mac hat for \$10 (1.30) & it was too small, but it helped keep his head warm. We also bought a couple of decks of cards with pictures of Guilin on them, so we played Nertz for an hour. One fascinating thing was the Trained cormorants - birds that do the fishing. There's a string around the neck of the bird - he gets the fish out of the river, then the fisherman "milks" the fish out of his neck into a basket. It was so fascinating. These birds just sat on the raft or on a pole carried across the fisherman's shoulders. These rafts were 5 bamboo poles lashed together, with a basket lashed to the middle. We also saw women doing their washing in the river. Brur! They didn't have very warm clothes on either. After the boat, our car took us back to Guilin - it was so nice to get warm. He took us to Guilin University,

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to an art store - we saw a beautiful painting by a famous artist \$9000 (1150) but they would sell it to us for \$300 US. Mike said he'd go \$250, but that's all we really couldn't even afford that, but they wouldn't go down so we finally left. A little tense. Weid. Then in the car, our guide Robert, showed us some pictures of art some friends of his had done "very cheap - gullible - no tapes" We said no - we really weren't interested in art. Then back to the ~~hotel~~ some restaurant as last night - there were our 2 Japanese friends! The food made me a little sick last night - dished about 4am & I couldn't sleep - so I didn't eat much. I'm usually not very picky, but it was so greasy & spicy & just kind of yukky. The soup was good - complete with the chicken foot in my bowl. We were happy to get back to our nice hotel.

Thurs 20

We got to sleep in a little. After breakfast we met Robert at the hotel at 9:15, & left to go to Reed Flute Cave. It was even colder & my ears were cold, so I put my new scarf over my head. Robert was laughing - he said he heard some Chinese people say I looked like a "Farmer's ~~exp~~ aunt" with the scarf & big stomach - (my fanny peek under my buttoned jacket.) I got a real kick out of that. We saw a Japanese friend again - they must have been on the same tour! The Cave was absolutely fantastic - they artistically put lights to accent formations - they were all named & very beautiful. It was warm 68° in the cave - year round. After we left the cave, I wanted to buy some reed flutes. I bought 2 for \$2, then a lady chased me down 5 for \$1! So I bought 5 more, then a cute little girl implored Mike, so he bought 2 more \$2. Then Robert asked us if we wanted to go visit a hospital so we said sure. Hmm. We were met at the door by a "doctor" & taken to a lecture room. We were served Chrysanthemum tea, which we both felt was OK - the doctor said for health, so we figured it was herbal. It was. Then he introduced a specialist in heart & body electricity therapy - he did a little song & dance - like Kung fu & hitting himself - fascinating. Then they hooked him up to electricity & he conducted it to light a bulb. Then we all held hands & felt the electricity. Then we closed our eyes & we could see lights flashing in our head - really strange. This older doctor spoke very good English - explained all about this was all traditional Chinese medicine no cutting, but electric therapy & acupuncture & herbal medicines. Then he asked if we had any problems they could demonstrate on. I said my back, so I went up

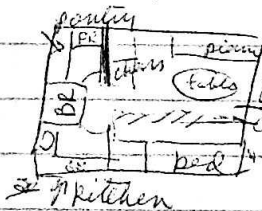
and sat on a stool. He lifted all my layers & started working on my lower back. I held an electric tube in my hand - he did electric impulse, sprayed some lotion on, put a little fire on a glass bulb & put those on my back (as they cooled, they created a vacuum) - he also rubbed my neck. I guess it lasted 5-10 min, then he took the bulbs off & put some plaster patches on my back. It really did feel good. Then they brought a basket of "ancient Chinese secrets" medicines, salves etc & wanted to sell us some - we felt like we had to buy, so we bought the "bone regulation" spray & patches \$35 US! wo. I guess it was worth the experience. Then we saw Elephant Hill, the symbol of Guilin - looked like a elephant drinking out of the river. Then we climbed 300 steps up a mountain that overlooked the city - breathtaking! In more ways than one!! Then we went to lunch at a hotel - delicious. After lunch we went to a factory - oh man, like a big shed, we saw them doing hand embroidery, carpet making, bamboo weaving, brush making - it was a handicraft factory. Of course there was a factory outlet which was more expensive than HK. I bought 4 doilies \$80 HK (\$20 US). Then we went to the airport - lots of waiting, checking. We bought some nice things in a shop there at departure. It was pretty nice. Before the factory, we went to the zoo & saw mei mei - a Panda! So cute. Anyway, I was happy to get out of China. I think our guide had to take us to those places. \$\$\$ He was very nice - I showed him our family - he couldn't believe it. He said they can only have 1 child - they know they have too many people. Sad. A great experience. We came

home & crashed.

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Friday 21

Boy talk about taking it easy - we nearly froze in our room - the heater was broken, so we moved to another room. Then we went & met an old missionary friend of Mike's - a local, Henry Tung, & he took us to lunch - it was nice. Then we came back & took a nap, then went to dinner at a member's house - she was also a local missionary with Mike. Her husband is a policeman & newly put in as bishop (for the 2nd time.) They had 2 children & were as nice as can be. She worried all day over the dinner & it was lovely. Their house was about as big as our living room. & he's due to retire next year.



The living room was also the dining room, & a curtain divided the bedroom - bunk beds

from the LR. Mike said it's probably parents on bottom, kids on top. They're 13 x 9. Boy & girl. Wow. A big picture of SL temple on the wall. They were married there in 1980. What a sacrifice. Sweet people.

We took a taxi there & back \$20 ea way (\$260 ea) (A bus would have been \$4 or 5 ea.) There are buses everywhere! I like to take em. We did a little shopping for trinkets & pit the day.

Saturday 22 January 1994

This morning we ate in the hotel (£180HK!) and enjoyed several hours at the cultural center - arts museum. Beautiful Chinese art & calligraphy. Then we took the mtr to Kowloon Tong, to the site of the old mission home where Mike lived for 6 months of his mission. There, Mike saw several people he knew from his mission especially exciting was Chow Chung yan - his most active baptism. She invited us for dinner Tuesday night. Elder John Carmack talked & gave the dedicatory prayer - he's the area president. It was a thrilling & exciting experience to be there - and very humbling to think we could be. What a blessing to be able to attend! Generally, only Stake Presidencies & Bishops & wives could come - not the general membership. The site is so small, but it will be a beautiful temple with a chapel, mission home & office ~~mission office~~ on the bottom 3 floors & the temple on the top 2. We even got to turn a shovelful of dirt. It was really a special day. Afterwards, we walked around the area, which has changed a LOT! It was neat. Such a special spirit there - and we got to be a part of it! Tonight the Kowloon Stk Pres Sham & his wife & kids took us to dinner - he picked us up at our hotel in his car & took us to a really nice restaurant - valet parking & as we went in, girls with walkie talkers guided us thru a shopping center. To this really nice restaurant - Lee Garden - It was huge & I only saw 1 other "girls". Anyway, Henry Tung was there too, & we had "Peking Duck" wow - yum.

We've never had it because you have to order it 2 days in advance & it's very expensive. We had tofu, bean leaves (like Swiss chard), beef & white carrots, char su, jelly fish (kinda like gummy worms! yummy fish soup with pork in it, & we drank gok fa chrysanthemum tea - really good. I wish (guk fa we would've known this earlier. After, we had bamboo soup with lotus seeds - kind of sweet, so wonderful!! It was really a nice nice dinner. After, Mrs. Shen took us to the ferry port to show us how to take a boat to China, then he brought us home. We're tired, but what a great day.

Sunday, Jan 23 1994

We got up at 6:30 & got ready for the trip out to Yuen Long - we took the MTR to the end of the line, then a taxi. The driver didn't know where Yuen Long was, but we got there by 9:15 - \$200 HK (\$26) wow. We went to 2 wards & one of the bishops asked Mike to bear his testimony. It was neat. He mentioned we had 7 children & there was a collective gasp & murmur! It was funny. We went to see the elder's house in back where Mike lived for 6 months - same place, different house. We talked to quite a few members & the missionaries for a while - especially the sisters. We then took a bus to a walled city - & walked thru there. Then we waited about 45 min for a bus to the train station. We finally got one & the scenery was very pretty - mountains, farms, but many more buildings than ever were when Mike was there. We took a train to Kowloon, then walked back to our hotel. We were pooped, so we

ordered a Dominoes pizza for \$60! (\$7.80). We've found if we want to eat cheap - we eat at the American places. McDonalds, Wendy's KFC - we can usually eat for less than \$10 us. But Chinese restaurants cost from \$30-50 for dinner! We went to 7-11 last night & bought snacks, cereal & milk for today. After the pizza, we took a nap & then caught up our journals!



Monday, January 24, 1994

We got up & checked out of our hotel again, storing our suitcases at the hotel again & getting in the train to the end of the rail - Hong Kong. There we exited our 1st class car, & went thru HK Customs, then walked across a bridge into China. What a change. After going thru Customs there (a slow process) we got on a bus to our hotel. At least here, Mike could communicate in Cantonese. The city of Shenzhen was a fascinating mixture of China & Hong Kong. Much much more modern than Guilin, but many shacks & poor poor people. We were taken to the fanciest hotel in town - Beautiful Shenzhen Bay Hotel with beautiful, expansive grounds, overlooking the Cultural Center. After an expensive but good lunch in the restaurant, we went to Cultural Center & saw many replicas of beautiful cultural buildings & areas of China. We had a really enjoyable afternoon & evening there. 2 specific events - One, we were bargaining with this Chinese woman over some wooden lions that Mike wanted to buy - he started speaking Chinese & everyone died of shock! Anyway I said an amount & she started jabbering in Chinese - I looked imploringly at Mike & he said "It's up to you - you decide!" I cracked up - "I have NO IDEA what she said!" It was so clear & obvious to him, he forgot I couldn't understand! It was so funny. Then, for dinner, we went to a "food court" & it was a little stranger & grayer looking, but the fried rice looked good, so we had fried rice & water (bottled)

for about \$4. I was waiting at the table while Mike picked up the food. I noticed a bunch of workers talking to Mike. They were so impressed he spoke Chinese they called everyone over. We got a LOT of looks throughout the day - we only saw a couple of guilos the whole day! And there were definitely none at the food court. It was really fun - we loved it.

After dinner we went to watch the parade. We were standing at the start & a policeman came to us & gestured for us to go with him, so we did. & he led us to the nice, reserved seats! Wow! The parade was a cultural treat -

The next day we went to "Splendid China" - miniatures 1/5 of real things in China - it was interesting, but got kind of tiring. We went back to HK on the train again & got back to the Stanford. We went to Sams linen & bought \$500 worth of stuff! We bought 100 beautiful, hand embroidered for 45¢ each - the cheapest nice! We bought a big vase for us, plus 2 smaller ones, a Mah Jong set for Mike, Vases for Sherry, Carrie, Judy, tea pots for Judy & I & robes because we were in a rush, so she had our purchases delivered to our hotel, & the large vase & Mah Jong set sent. Wow, what luxury - we charged the stuff, had it delivered, and ran out, grabbed a taxi & went to the train station & rode to Shatin to meet with Mike's strongest baptism, Sister Lee - and her husband. They took us to dinner & brought their pictures from their wedding so we could see. They got married in

(her husband is a bishop
& they have 4 kids)



the SI Temple while we were in Germany. It was such a special time. As we were talking afterward, we were thanking them, & she said 'Oh thank you - Thank you for coming here and baptizing me. Thank you - Thank you!' It was really neat & tear jerking. We took the train back to our hotel.

26 Jan 1994 We got up, packed up our stuff and went to the island to meet with Alton ~~John~~ Khoo, the US West Area Resident or something. It was an interesting meeting - we went up to the peak again and hiked up to the very top, saw where Hong Kong was dedicated, saw where the missionaries made their movie and it was neat to see the other side of Aberdeen & the South China Sea. It was beautiful! We walked around the city & looked at some neat buildings - bought us each a jacket, me a purse & jamonies for Morgan & Rick. We got back to the hotel, took the bus to the airport & had 2 hours to kill, so we checked our luggage & took a bus to Star Ferry, because I wanted some stuff from the HK Tourist Association. Mike wanted to walk thru the Queen Terminal & see those stores. After that, we went back - just as they closed! I felt so bad! So we hurried & bought some stuff at China Arts & Crafts - it was expensive but would've been fun to visit for a longer time. Anyway, back to the airport, check in, & a nice dinner in the restaurant. Got on the plane & flew for 11 1/2 hours. Sometimes we went 750 mph with a tail wind as high as 150 mph! It took 5 hrs less going home - we slept about 3 hours - it went so much faster! Then we slept from LA to Las Vegas, & home about 11 pm. boy were we tired! A 34 hr day - great!



be home. It was great to see the kids. The house looked great! And I walked in & went WO! This place is. HUGE!! I kept thinking this is so big!

February 12, 1994 Morgan's 6th birthday!

Morgan is such a cute 6-year old! He has a darling scattering of freckles across his nose, big blue eyes, long silky lashes, & dark brown hair with a red-gold shine. What a cute boy! He's very sweet & very sensitive. He's really grown up this year - he loves his kindergarten teachers & loves to go to school. I'm grateful for that. He loves letters & words and is really picking up a lot on reading. He's becoming quite inquisitive and asks a lot of questions about really interesting things - like "Does Heavenly Father have a father?" He's always coming up with funny things! He gets his feelings hurt quite easily, & unfortunately, his big brothers like to bug him & make him cry. Especially Talmage! But really makes me crazy! He loves Nick, but is starting to bug him a bit too. We sure love our Morgan & are glad he's in our family. He plays with Brett Bagwell & Nate Case.





April 27, 1994 Wednesday. Boy am I in a frustrated, ticked off mood. Sunday I started feeling sick, Monday a little worse - & Monday night I sweated & chilled & only slept 3-4 hours. Tuesday a.m. I took Nick & I to the Dr. (Gerty dropping Michelle off to get her wisdom teeth pulled) we both had strep throat & ear infections! So then I took Nick home & went back to get Michelle - boy I was feeling crappy. I got her home & went to bed. Brett stayed home from school to help - he went to the store & got our medicine. Ben came over and took care of Michelle all afternoon - so I didn't have to. Anyhow, I told the boys to clean up the kitchen & they argued & complained & hassled me - it made me so mad because I was feeling so sick! Then Aaron started feeling sick so I told Brett to clean up the kitchen at 10pm when he got home from work. (I had gone downstairs & there was all 5 boys - sitting in a messy family room eating popcorn & watching a movie, with the kitchen a mess. Not a very big mess - we had frozen pizza for dinner. Anyhow Brett argued & complained & wah wah wah but finally did it. I'm so sick of whining complaining obstinate disobedient kids! I know it's because I don't follow thru! I told Mike about it on the phone tonight (he's been in Seattle since Monday) and he said 'why didn't you ground them? add on extra jobs? etc etc - I said 'well it only makes it harder & I didn't have time! way they do! Then tonight I said 'Talmage - can you go up and grabbed him & pulled him downstairs he's whining on you butt me! you always hurt these kids! Then I told Michelle it was too late for



Ben to come over 9:45 & she begged & bawled & pleaded. I said NO & even told Ben on the phone I didn't want him to come tonight. It's too late. She bawled & whined. Mother, is she spoiled! And she is such a wuss? wuss?! Brother! She hasn't gotten out of bed for 2 days - & she had 3 teeth pulled! She whined & bawled when I made her come up & watch TV for 45 minutes. She's weak cuz she hasn't eaten for 2 days. Good grief!!
Why, I've been so sick the past couple of days & I don't get NO Respect! I'm frustrated & tired & feel lousy.

(Michelle had strep too, & her whole mouth was infected. Boy did I feel like a lousy mom.)

May 21, 1994

Michelle was in the Days of 47 Royalty Pageant today. I was SURE she'd at least be in the top 10, but she wasn't even in the top 25! (Cut of 66.) It was fun & a good experience, altho I'm sure she felt bad about it. All the girls were really top-notch and darling. She was there 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. I was there from 12:00 - 8:30. What a long day. She's a cutie.

- MIKE RELEASED AS BISHOP -

May 22, 1994 - Last Thursday night at 9:30 pm, Mike & I met with the stake presidency, and Mike was released as Bishop of the Centerville 30th ward and called to be on the high council of the Canyonview Stake. They didn't want anyone to know until last night, so half the ward didn't know about it. Daken Tanner, Mike's first counselor, was made bishop. Several months ago, I had a strong impression that's who it would be. That's what I told Pres Pitt when he asked. The Stake Presidency decided on another good man, Jim Judge, but after several days of no confirmation, they asked about Daken and got a strong affirmation. It's funny, but Jim is the logical choice. In fact, he was probably the "people's choice" when Mike was called. Anyway, church was pretty emotional, & the spirit was so wonderful. After Mike was released & the new bishopric sustained, Pres Pitt said some very complimentary things about Mike, then asked me to come speak. I read Alma 28:8 about Ammon & his brethren & their trials & sorrows and tribulations, & their "unspeakable joy." I expressed my love for my husband & family, ^{I was} my witness of Daken as new bishop, & my testimony that God lives & loves us & the gospel is the only way to true happiness. Then Mike spoke, Carolee spoke, & Daken - Bishop Tanner spoke. What a wonderful, beautiful meeting. We had very many lovely comments from a lot of people about how much they appreciated him/us. It was a lovely day & I'm grateful it came. Mike's parents & Rex & Carrie were there, my parents came during Mike's talk because Judy's son Michael was ordained a deacon at the same time. I felt kind of bad about that, but there's no point in getting offended. They come down to see Michael & they didn't want to take away from him. They stopped by here for 10 or 15 minutes.

1994

May 30 - President Benson Dies



May 30 - June 5

What a special week this has been - it was wonderful to have Mike at church with us - everyone commented on how strange it was to see him sitting in the congregation. I loved it.

On Memorial Day, May 30, we did some yard work then took the boys up to Beautiful Peak for a picnic. Then when we got home, Michelle told us President Benson had passed away about 2:30 pm of congestive heart failure. What a wonderful man! Then we took the family to Surf & swim at Layton & met Sheri & Richard & kids & BT & Jayce for a picnic after.

Tuesday May 31, was our 20th wedding anniversary. We went to the Temple & did sealings, then ate dinner at the Temple, walked around Temple square & thru the church history museum & saw the art competition. It was a lovely evening & I'm so grateful for my sweet companion. We now been married more years than I haven't!

Saturday was the funeral - we all got dressed up and went to the stake house, thinking the whole stake would be there - there were 3 other families, us & 7 others! It was really an inspiring & uplifting meeting. It was wonderful to hear President Hunter speak & realize he will most likely be our next prophet! Afterward, we went to frontage road & saw the funeral cortege go by - that was so touching & we weren't the only ones - thousands of people lined the freeway from SLC to Whitney, ID, where he was buried. Many in the cortege said it was very touching to see all the people who loved President Benson turn out to pay their last respects. It was really special.

Afterwards, we had another picnic. Later that evening, we went to see Ben sing with the group at SCCC who will be going to Japan with them. They've improved very good & put on a great show! Today, Mike helped a lot since the first of the year! They've improved a lot since the first of the year! Today, Mike helped get everybody ready & out the door. I got to church early & went down to the nursery during priesthood & we had family Council - AND he interviewed all the kids on a walk - it was a great day!


June 20-23, 1994

On Monday, we were discussing Mike going to Flaming Gorge to be with the scouts, & I decided to go! So I packed up the van, we left about 8pm & got there at 12:30 - set up our tent etc. Got to bed at 2:30. Mike was supposed to be at a dock to meet scout leaders at 10:00. We got there at 1030 & stayed an hour, but no one came, so we left & toured the dam & surrounding area. It's a beautiful lake & area. It rained most of the day & night, but it was good to have the time with Talmage, Morgan, & Nick. Our tent was wonderful - it leaked a little the first time, but after drying off, did better that night. I guess I'm too old to sleep on the ground - I slept miserably! Wednesday morning, Mike spent the day with the teachers (Aaron & Kent went up Wednesday, Matt had gone up on Monday.) They played in the lake in their new kayaks which they had built - Mike even built him one - & they had a good time. In the meantime, I took the boys to Vernal & to the National Dinosaur Monument - what an experience! It was awesome to see the actual dinosaur bones sticking out of the mountain, just like they found it. Then we drove down the road & saw some petroglyphs - 1000 years old! Amazing. Back to Vernal, had a picnic in the park & really had a nice time. I was glad we went. We went back to the boys camp, sat around till Mike came, then went to the lake & Paul Schow took us & the boys for a 20 min ride. Nick was a little scared at first, but seemed to enjoy it - Morgan & Nick loved it! So did I. They had taken Mike to the island to see the scouts - & Kim Wall had forgotten all about him until 7:30 that night! It worked out fine. Thurs am we hiked down to the river to see the teachers & priests take off from below the



dam in their kayaks & rubber rafts - Mike ran down
the river with them, videoring as he went. I followed a
little ways, but thought I was going to have heatstroke,
so I sat down & for the next 1 hr & 40 min waited for Mike.
It wouldn't have been so bad, if I'd have had a pack
& no kids, but trying to keep 3 little boys out of trouble
next to a deep swift river was not a lot of fun after
about the first half hour. Nick was so cute! He loved
throwing rocks in the water. I was fuming by the time
Mike got back - he said Hi! He had no clue that I
might be upset he was gone so long. Sometimes I get
so frustrated but if I try to explain why I'm mad - I'm
judging him & he somehow turns it so I feel guilty,
like I'm the one at fault! Then we had to rush home
without going swimming in the lake or anything - because
he had to get home for his shots! At 6:15, by Hill AFB,
he called the allergy clinic & they said "Oh, come in
tomorrow!" I was mad again because we could have
stayed longer, but we had to rush! So I was ticked off but
he has absolutely no clue - why I should be upset -
I feel like he's so selfish & inconsiderate of me so
often - that our whole married life I have suffered to
him & his needs, so he just expects it! Then I feel
like I'm selfish because he occasionally does really
nice things for me! Anyhow, today I had to really
clean - the house was a mess! Dishes, laundry,
unpacking etc. My backpack pulling me, I'm just
plain grumpy & tired. I wonder if it's
worth all the hassle & work!


June 30 - July 6

Williams family Reunion at Nielsenhaven - we went up Thurs night, after Rebecca Weyment's reception, & arrived at 1:30 AM. Rex & Sheri & their families were there. Friday we went to Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone, after seeing the Yellowstone IMAX movie - it was cool. We had a nice afternoon - everyone went swimming in the river while Nick & I played with the prairie dogs - there were so many in this grassy area! Nick would see one & toddle over to it & in the hole it would go! He'd look around - hold up his hands & say "where'd it go?" I'd show him another one a few holes away, & off he'd go, only to have it disappear, & again, he'd say "where'd it go?" We spent about an hour there - I didn't have a video! It was so cute! We had ice cream & threw rocks while we were waiting. Saturday Michelle, Nick & I stayed at the cabin while everyone else went into Yellowstone. Nick slept for 3 1/2 hours & I read a book - my idea of a VACATION! Sat night we went to Playmill - "Paint Your Wagon" - it was good - would've been better if I wouldn't have had Nick! He was a pain in the NECK!! Sunday we had a family testimony meeting and it was really neat. Sheri fixed a yummy dinner & Rex & Carrie left, taking Michelle with them. ~~then~~ we took a drive to the lake & drove the long way home - a lovely evening! Monday Sheri, Richard left, & we put the kayaks & a 2 man raft in the river below Mac's - & went to Coffee pot & waited for Mike, Aaron, Matt & Jalmar. It was fun. Dinner, laundry, then we watched fireworks & looked at the beautiful stars. Tuesday we lazed around, Mike worked, we took garbage & picked up some videos - watched "Paint Your Wagon" movie - it was funny. Wednesday we cleaned - all day! & came home.



Wow - so much to catch up on
July - we went camping a few times, Salma & Morgan
started school. The first weekend in August, we went to
Nielsen's, July & I were in charge of it & it turned out wonderful.
The greatest was a square dance - we had a caller & it was a RIOT.
We also had skits about ancestors & it was really neat too.
The kids had youth conference on Antelope Island - they rode their
bikes out there! I was supposed to go help, but I was really sick
& so was Nick. Vicki came down & we had a good time.
School started for the big kids, & Michelle went back to BVM.
She has all new freshmen roommates - they're kinda weird.
Ben Blauer, Michelle's boyfriend, left for his mission on
August 31. He's going to Malaga, Spain. She really misses
him - he's the best friend she ever had in her life.

Sept 8, Salma was out of school (off track) and he
was climbing a tree, fell out, hit his elbow on the cement,
& broke it. Sept 25 was my nephew Travis' mission
farewell, so we all went up for that. Mike took all the kids
home & I stayed until the following Friday, when my very
best friend got married! She seems very happy, and I am
happy for her. ~~Rebecca~~

On September 20, Mike called me & told me he'd had
a job offer to go live in Russia! Surprising even myself,
I said "go for it!" He said "There aren't any schools, & I
said 'I'd home school!'" I said that?? Anyway, we were
both quite surprised at how positive we both felt. He called
Doug Drexler, the guy who made the offer, & talked to him for
a half hour. The next night Mike visited with Doug
in Denver. His major concern was schooling, but we felt
we could take care of it. So we decided to fast & pray as a family
on Saturday. We went to D.I.F. early Sat morning & went to the
temple - it was a Spanish session & we were asked to be
the witnesses! We had a while before the session, so we were
looking thru the scriptures, & felt like the Boy M. Todd was



to go to Russia! The experiences of Alma & sons of
messiah - very interesting! We were very tearful - & we
both bawled practically through the whole thing - we both
felt so strongly that there's a reason for us to go
there! It was a really special day. Then on Sunday,
we had a family meeting, and asked the kids' feelings -
all of them said, basically, "I don't really want to go,
but I think we should do it." It was neat - we shared
our experiences & feelings with them, & told them we
had decided to go, & could they sustain us in that decision,
and be like Rephaim Sam - NOT Laman & Lemuel. They all
raised their hands and sustained us. Cool kids! Then
we had a family hug - cool. It really was so neat.
We asked Nick, "wanna go to Russia?" He said "OK!
Russia!!" It was so cute.

October 30, 1994

Well, Mike & I went to Russia last week -
We left Friday morning & got back Thursday
afternoon. That was a LONG flight - I don't
know how Nick's going to do! Anyway, we had an
interesting visit, looked at some apartments, stores,
etc, so I really felt positive about going the whole
time we were there. The place is dirty and old & crumbling
but people are really trying to fix it up. Larissa, our
interpreter said to me - "You must understand, we don't live
here - we survive." The people we met were really
nice. But since I've been home, it's really hit me
how much we are sacrificing - I look at our home,
neighborhood, all the houses & yards - grass & flowers,
stores Albertsons & Ernst - we have everything!
If we need something - we go to Ernst. We
painted the deck yesterday - it looks better.


November 16, 1994

Well, the past two weeks have gone by so fast - we focused all our energy and strength into getting Mike ready to go. We bought us 2 new computers - really nice - Top of the line ultra up to date "Pentium" the fastest available. We got some really neat programs too. His office had a bunch for him & 2 others. I gave him some Russian Hymn Books, Gospel Principles, & Book of Mormon - neat, we could read some names! Mike was so stressed out & uptight it was a relief to see him finally go. Now we're really on our way, I guess. He called me this morning & everything was fine, & he's tired. Lots of work to do, & we'll probably get the smaller apartment. Maybe we could put 2 together?! That'd be nice! I've been busy going to Drs, Dentists, & Teachers. I had 2 crown preps done yesterday, & I feel like I've been smacked in the face! I've had a sore throat/cough for a few days, so I couldn't sleep very well last night - I didn't sleep today & I'm so tired! The teachers at the elementary school are all getting books together - I have all the 4th grade books. And that's the only grade I won't really need. The principal & Mrs. Utter photo copied the whole curriculum for Davis Co. Schools, grades K-6. So nice. I ordered over \$200 worth of books from Scholastic etc for Morgan & Jalmage. Gotta have a library! So tired.

JAN 1, 1995

Can't believe 1994 is over - but it is! This has been a really wonderful year -

top ten stories in my life this year

- #1 New Job in Russia
- #2 Trip to China
- #3 Hong Kong
- #4 Mike's Release as Bishop
- #5 Mike's Call as Branch President
- #6 Trip to Russia
- #7 1st time to Flaming Gorge
- #8 Vernal & Annapolis Land
- #9 Ben left on his mission to Spain
- #10 I turned 39, Mike turned 42
Nick turned 2
Morgan turned 6
Jalmage turned 10
Matt turned 13
Aaron turned 15
Brett turned 17
Michelle turned 19

This will be a really interesting year - a whole new era in my life -

January 15, 1995

Yesterday was the Bountiful Temple Dedication. Actually, we went to the last of 28 sessions. Over 20,000 people attended the dedications. My parents & sister, Vicki, were able to come with us - Brett was in the choir in the celestial room & it was really special. I really missed Mike & wished he could be there. But he felt like he had the spirit of the Dedication with him, & it was wonderful. So besides my parents & Vicki, Aaron Matt Salmage & Michelle were with me - & I felt such love and appreciation for them - we saw Brett on the monitor - such a handsome, good young man! Yesterday, Michelle tried out for Nauvoo mission, and she made callbacks, which were at 4:30, the precise time of the dedication! But she came, & in the temple, said "I'm so glad to be here - any sacrifice is worth it!" Afterwards, we took her back to SL to the church office bldg. She went in, & the judges were still there - but no priest. She said "I can play" & so she accompanied herself! She said she did a lousy job, tho. We hope they appreciate her dedication and sweet spirit - and her talents! The dedication was wonderful & today the roads were slippery & the van got stuck on the hill - after church, 6 or 8 men came up & said they heard my van was stuck, & could they help? It really made me feel good. Judy Wayment mentioned us in her little 5 min talk in RS as 5th RS pres, & Joyce E gave a great lesson on love at home - using Moriah 2-4 as her source. I felt the spirit testify - this is true, so I gave it to my kids tonight - we spent nearly 2 hours on it! And the spirit was strong, & I hope it helps. It has already helped me! I've had some discouraging setbacks with the apt, but I know we'll get there!

Michelle made
nauroo! she really telling her she was
chosen! Yea!

February 5, 1995

Wow, my life is so busy, & I don't write enough!
I started an EMT Emergency Medical Technician, Class on
Jan 3. It's on Tues & Thursday nights 6-10 pm, & on
Saturdays 9-5. I've learned a lot more than I ever
wanted to know, but I think it will be worth it. The
class members are mostly young men who have
totally different values than I do - there's a lot of
swearing, it makes me crazy. Especially when I find
out they're RM's, or in a bishopric! Anyway, that's been
interesting, but I can't wait till it's over.

I've had a hard but interesting week. I've been so concerned
about the - um, lack of feelings I've had toward Mike - my life
really is easier when he's gone that really shouldn't be that
way! So these many years, I've felt like I was the long suffering
unselfish person who had to put up with Mike's selfishness &
demands. Well, thru a series of books, prayer & etc, I've come to
realize that it's ME who's been the major cause of the problem -
because of my selfishness & self pity. I can't even imagine how
I have hurt Mike - and our relationship. We have not been truly
one because of my refusal to totally give myself to this relationship.
So we've been fasting & praying that I will have a change of heart
and truly love him with my whole being, the way I used to!
I really believe we have the possibility of a true celestial
relationship, and I think Satan has been inserting wedges
into our relationship whenever he gets a chance. So I
know that Heavenly Father will bless me to help make
our marriage wonderful - the way it SHOULD, COULD BE!

MARCH

WASHINGTON DC

Mike had to go on business, so I went with him, we
stayed at the Marriott Courtyard in Gaithersburg, MD. We talked
to the Abbots, spent a day with my niece Nathalie, & we went to
visit Pete & Alene Cannon. I also spent on day shopping & bought
me some clothes. It was fun. It was a good trip & we were able
to renew our relationship without any kids - so nice to do.
Dett had his wisdom teeth out the morning we came back.

POCCVIA



March 30, 1995 VLADIVOSTOK

Well, A LOT has happened since I last wrote. I really couldn't believe we would come on March 20, I kept hoping we really wouldn't come until June. BUT when Mike gets an idea, watch out! He wasn't about to come back here without us - and even tho nothing was done on the apt, we were COMING! It looks like we'll probably be here in the motel for at least 6 weeks, and I sure didn't come prepared for that - well, anyway - Mike came home on March 2. We were really busy buying things, settling money & banking plans, seeing Dr. etc. I was going crazy trying to pack & sort & clean. Mike just kept saying "it'll work out" but I felt like I was doing it all. Anyway, it did work out, but we were up at 6am, & bed at midnight. So much sorting, cleaning out, decisions, decisions! I tried myself to sleep - The movers came on Wednesday, Shura, & Friday. Wow, what a lot of junk! Dee & Linda, Mom & Dad came down on Friday, & we loaded up Dee's horse trailer with stuff to send to Idaho. Saturday, the 18th (Mike's birthday) we packed suitcases & sorted junk. Sunday we went to church, went to Judy's for lunch - she made Chimichangas & a big birthday cake for Mike. At 4:00, we had an Eagle Court of Honor for Matt & Aaron - I worked hard to help them get their projects done! What a pain, but the end result was worth it. After the Court of Honor, the ward had a nice open house for us - lots of people came & it was really neat. We were exhausted tho - & we were staying at the Marriott, so that made it nice. Monday I went shopping with the boys while Mike finished up the bank stuff, & we went back to the house to meet with the realtor & turn over the keys - so sad. Goodbye to Joyce Erickson, Judy Wayment, & my parents. Vicki & Kenda were there helping, and they were going to go home instead of going to the airport, but Kenda said she felt like she should go back & check, & there was my purse on the steps - so they came to the airport, I was glad. At the airport, there was

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Mike's whole family, our whole family (kids), Judy's family, and Vilki, Kendra & Matt Daines. It was really hard for me - one funny thing was that I had ordered the Eagle Statues for Matt & Aaron, but then forgot to pick them up! So Carrie brought them to the airport & they were HUGE!! It was kind of funny Mike's Dad insisted on going, he looked good.

I bawled & bawled - so did Michelle. I can't believe I left my 3 kids alone & took off into the wild blue yonder! We flew to Anchorage, stayed at the Sheraton, then flew out the next afternoon. I wanted to go to Wal-mart but we ran out of time (and Mike didn't want to...) The Alaska Air people couldn't believe what we were doing - and how many kids we have! The flight was good, we had plenty of room and the kids were pretty good. We had a 2-hour stop in Anchorage, & the pilot let the boys go in the cockpit. It was neat - they were real nice to us. We arrived about 10 pm - a van, truck & car met us & brought us here - so tired. We ate something & fell into bed, but I woke up at 4 am for a few hours, & the kids were up & down so it wasn't very restful.

Anyway, we're getting into a routine of breakfast, pick up the house, Study Russian together & write journal pages, go for a walk, eat lunch, nap or play sega (guess who does what) eat dinner, watch a movie, go to bed. Not really exciting, but kinda restful & at least not BAD. I am getting tired of the food in the restaurant, it's GREASY!! We went to see the apt Sat - quite depressing, actually, but it seems huge after living in a motel! It's been all torn up, but I'm sure it will be better in the long run. At least the elevator works now!!



Yesterday was my 40th Birthday! I really can't believe I'm that OLD!! I feel like I'm only 20, but when I look in the mirror, I realize I look that old!! wrinkles, saggy eyes & grey hair!

Yesterday Mike & I went shopping - Sergei was our driver, Kevin went as translator. We went to an open air market, where Mike bought me a "krisevna shopka" - a beautiful hat! It's MINK! It's light grey, very pretty, & really makes my eyes BLUE!! I think it looks nice - everybody says so - even all the shopkeepers around! Course they wanted to make a sale. Mike says it does! Then we bought some fruit, then went to Lidl & bought some instant oatmeal, choc milk, caramel can & tootie rolls - essentials! We read took naps & sent messages on Sprint mail - Vicki, Mom & Dad, & Michelle sent nice birthday messages. At 5:30 we went down to eat - Miller & her 8 year old grandson came, & sang "happy birthday" to me. Miller (Mike's boss) gave me a really nice set of Mitruska's (rope) and a ring & earring set - April's birthstone, altho I don't know what it is. It's pretty though. Kevin, Eric, & Barbara Drake (a temp at US West here) came & had dinner with us. Mike got me a really nice cake - huge & beautiful! So we had cake & ice cream & then just visited a while. Then we watched "Khartoom" back in our apt - then went to bed. Nice birthday, I guess I didn't expect ANYTHING, so everything was nice! a few days ago, I got a letter from Susan Sim, she sent 3 balloons & some "40" sprinkles! That was really nice. The boys enjoyed playing with the balloons - Morgan got along really well, they put Nick's little puzzles together in lots of different ways. It was a lovely birthday. It was nice. I taught

together in lots of different ways.
 birthday.
 Today we had church here - it was nice. I taught
 Primary to Salmage, Morgan, & Thiek I intend to do
 some Scripture study on my own for R.S.

April 16, 1995

I've been writing so many E-mails detailing my daily activities - mostly just hanging around the apt. But Dellow, Matthews & her kids came 2 weeks ago, and things have really picked up. She doesn't sit & let grass grow while waiting for her husband! We've been out shopping 4 times - what an incredible experience. It really could get depressing, but we have found most everything we need. The apartments are coming right along. It's good we're staying in this small motel, the apartment seems very large.

It's funny, it's like my life isn't real or something right now. Kind of like being in a dream. Even though we are picking out stuff for the apt & checking on it, I can't believe we'll really live there! It's funny, I really don't miss anybody really bad, but once in a while it'll hit me that I miss someone - like today in church, we sang "There is sunshine in my soul today" and even though I love that song, I bawled all the way through it. I really missed Joyce E. - it made me think of her. Anyway - occasionally something like that happens. But generally, I am just kind of going along.

We had lunch at a Russians' home - Constantine & Drena, & their 7 year old Natasha. He works for Mike, & has been helping us purchase our carpet, wallpaper, vinyl, tubs, fridges & TV's. He's very nice, he made us a cake, she decorated it & let us help - it was so nice of them. They served us a nice lunch. She sews (on a treadle) cars, fruit & veggies, & stays home with their daughter. They'd be great members. (He doesn't smoke) - very unusual - & he speaks very good english!

May 14, 1995 Mother's Day

We had a nice Sacrament meeting, sister Kim bore her testimony - what a sweet woman. Mike spoke about mothers & the principles of the priesthood. Mike took the kids for Primary, & they made cards for their moms. The R.S. watched Elder Halland's missionary fireside & it was really super. The teenagers went downtown yesterday and bought us some baskets of flowers, roses, and they were really pretty. We had lunch, took a nap, then went for a walk down to the ocean. It was breezy but pretty.

The past month has gone by really fast - we've been working on getting the apt. done & it's been incredibly slow & frustrating. It is getting closer to looking like we might be in, in 2 weeks - who knows? It is looking better all the time. They need to get the kitchen cabinets in, finish the tile & wallpaper, put the water filters in & finish painting. Then they can do the carpet and vinyl. It should be interesting! Roger, a guy that lives here & hangs out at the motel, built 2 American style houses & we went to see them. When I started tearing up when I walked into the garage I saw 2x4's, insulation, sheetrock, etc. It was a small multi-story home, like ours in Canterbury. It was neat to see it. Mike didn't get any kitchen faucets, so we've been looking for days to find a faucet. We did find one but it probably wouldn't fit a dishwasher. We asked a guy coming from Moscow to bring one, but we're not sure he will.


Sunday May 28, 1995

Well, more the same - looking for stuff for apt's. Last week I was called as RS President! That's something I've never done! Mike was really sick last week - bronchitis & boy was he sick! We started on Keflex & it hadn't done anything in 4 days, so Sun night Kevin & Aric gave him a blessing. Aric was feeling sick, so he had a blessing. Then I asked if Morgan could have a blessing, because he was starting to feel like Mike; cough & sore throat. After he was done, Nicholas climbed up on the chair & said "now me!" Mike couldn't resist, he melted and gave Nick a sweet Father's blessing. Nick squeezed his eyes shut & folded his arms so tight - it was so cute. Then he said "now Yours turn Mom!" It was so cute! We also switched Mike to Lorabid, and put Morgan on Amoxicillin. They're both much better.

Yesterday, we went to the apartment and I vacuumed 6 of the rooms that are all done and ready to receive furniture HOPEFULLY Tomorrow! The Russian workers seemed quite interested in the vacuum and/or me doing it! The carpet in my room & 1 room is beautiful high quality plush, but it is literally LAYED down, then wood baseboard is nailed up over it. What a waste - it ripples & bubbles - it really should be stretched and installed correctly. We're going to have to be really careful when we move any furniture. I like the way the apartments are turning out, I can't believe I picked some of the wallpaper that I did, but it has a nice airy feeling. We got some neat ceiling fans for our kitchens - they are Really pretty, and they'll be so nice in the summer. The washing machines came in from Korea, & the door to my washroom is too small! Besides, you have to manually drain them - what a pain - so we'll have someone sell them, & we ordered new smaller ones. Brett & Aaron have their visas & tickets and will be arriving June 11! I'll be so fun to see them. I feel bad about missing Brett's graduation I don't think he feels real bad about it tho!


June 11, 1995

Boy the time is going by so fast! We moved into our apartment - on Thursday June 1. There wasn't any water for the first 24 hours! We weren't prepared with any extra water, so we went back to the Vlad and bought some water. We weren't able to flush or bathe, but we did OK! We had problems getting our furniture in, but with a can-do attitude, & a pulled muscle / slipped disk in Mike's back, we got the couch into our living room. And the dryer & washer into the wash room. They are small & take a long time, but they're nice. My washer floods whenever it drains - the plumbers came back and thought they fixed it, but it still floods! They also showed us how to improve our water pressure by cleaning out the screens (LOTS of rocks & sand in them!) and by loosening a screw on the bathtub faucet. Later I went into the bathroom and water was spraying out of the (to) loose screw! What a mess. So anyway, they need to come back and fix the problem -

Our apt is starting to feel like home, but we have so much to do - like take lots of boxes back to the office to put in the bomb shelter and get our wall furniture, so we have places to put things.

Well - Brett and Aaron were SUPPOSED to come today. Fortunately, Mike went over to the office and called to see if the plane would be on time. They had gotten 2 1/2 hours from Anchorage to Nome and Russia, wouldn't let them enter! So they went BACK to Anchorage and will be there 1-2 more days. What a disappointment! An adventure for sure! They're probably lovin' it! We're starting to feel at home here - I actually am feeling like I know my way around & can try to communicate a little. Russian lessons start in earnest this week! Michelle is doing so well in Nauvoo - it's so neat to hear from her! The Sorensens wrote a nice letter and told us how they felt inspired to choose her - it was really neat & nice.


June 25, 1995

Well, the plumbers came back & tore out the pipes - the tile guys had poured tar down the drain, so it was mostly blocked! Absolutely crazy. So now the washer works but the tiles have been chipped out! The platers came and hung up & fixed a lot of stuff, so it's starting to look like home. We paid \$50 for 2 guys who worked 7 hours. It was great. I love having it done & Mike loves not having to do it.

Nick has been sick this week with a yucky croupy cough. One morning I was playing about Iaken care of him & the thought entered my mind to start giving him antibiotics, since this is how he sounded that time he got really sick. So he's on amoxicillin & seems to be doing better, but he still coughs occasionally. I'm giving him spengia too. We had our balconies enclosed this week, it's great. Feels much safer & warmer.

Brett & Aaron came the next day, Monday 11th. It was really great to see them, they're wonderful kids. They've had a few hard days, they really miss their friends and Brett misses basketball a lot. I hurt for them.

I finally got my counselors. Dillory for ed. & Sis Kim for homemaking. So we're pretty organized for lessons now.

Last night we went to the circus & saw acrobats, clowns, trapeze artists, dancing bears & cossacks ⁱⁿ ^{10th} and horses. Wow. It was fun. We rode the tram and had 3 tickets - the most expensive! It was a fun night & we need to do more things like that.


July 1, 1995

Well, I just want to bawl & bawl, but there's really no point, and I wouldn't feel any better, so I thought I'd write in my journal & see if that helps. Lets see, this week, I unpacked & cleaned & shopped. We got a bunch of American food at the stall - soy sauce, molasses, jello, cheesecake mix, Kleenex, bisquick, pancake mix, Tide etc. It was great. On Tuesday, our electricity went out at 10:55 am & stayed off until 10:07. I unpacked & organized a lot of boxes - it was really quiet - no computers, Sega, tv or radio. Kinda nice. The kids went outside & played with Russian kids, so that was good. It rained & rained all week, it's been incredible. Wednesday my period started, I felt lousy, but had planned on a nice meal for Albina & the husband. So I had to get ready for that. What a disaster - it was so awkward I made a roast that burned, potatoes that weren't done, wonderful rolls, a Texas cake that wasn't cooked. Then we sat around & laughed at Nick. And Mike put on "Little Rascals". It was Albina's 25th birthday on Thursday. We sang Happy Birthday. It was so awkward & weird. I went to bed right after they left & stayed there all the next day & read a book.

Albina - it's so weird for Mike to have an assistant who's with him more than I am! When we went to dinner the other week, I noticed she had a "compassionate" bag just like mine! It was mine! Mike had given it to her! He hadn't asked me! It used to be my temple bag! Then he HAD to have her over for dinner & we gave her a pretty crystal vase! When we first got her, I mentioned to Mike how sad it was that Albina's daughter lives with her grandma - 9 hrs away. I said something about tending her so she could live here - then a couple of weeks ago, I told Mike I didn't think it would be a good idea. Cuz I'm running



around so much, it would be a hassle! Well, on Friday he went to lunch with Albina & Vitally, & he mentioned that I'd offered to tend her! Albina was delighted, maybe in the fall? So that irks me that he offered my services! And I had just said I changed my mind! He said "well, it's not that big of a deal!"

He has not ever spent a Saturday "home" since we moved here, it's been either work or church-work. So I had HIGH hopes that he'd be around yesterday to help do a couple of things. He slept & messed around on the computer until 4 pm! Then did some work & personal financial stuff, ate, & went to the office until 12:15 pm! Just to send E mail! Today, he got himself ready, had church, had a pres. mtg after church, talked to Eric, then left for a missionary discussion - at least he took Brett. Boy, I feel something like a dispenser giving him what he wants as he rushes by. It's really frustrating. Yet what else do I expect? It's been like this our whole life together. He told me he'd changed, he wouldn't be impatient & demanding & irritable to his family any more!! Ya right. I must be in a really witchy mood, I guess fasting doesn't help me be any nicer. I got to entertain the Kim's until 4pm. They're nice & all, but it gets old, having someone else here every Sunday. We haven't been getting much mail lately - Email OR real letters. I feel so isolated - alone too, it's the 4th of July on Tuesday! So I guess I'm homesick.

July 23, 1995 Sunday

Well, we're into potty training. A little over a week ago, Nick was dry when I got him up, and I only had a few diapers left, so I thought, let's go for it! He can go any time I put him on the toilet, but he always poops his pants, then says "mommy, I hafta go stinky" He hasn't had a BM on the toilet yet. But he seems to be pretty positive and I think he'll catch on soon. He's such a doll - we love him so much. We went to the Ellad yesterday & played tennis & walked to the beach, while Mike took the kids to the airport. Sis Kim has to go home to take care of some legal problems. Anyway, we spent \$200 on dinner - it wasn't that great, but it was fun. Shirley & George had gone out on a boat, so we didn't get to see them. We saw several poisonous jelly fish! Tons of people swimming, though. Very immodest swim suits. We felt like we really stood out in our clothes! Talk about feeling overdressed.

While driving home some guys behind us in a land cruiser honked & blinked at us, so Mike pulled over (we were on a side street) & these guys got out & came over to talk to us. On discovering we only spoke English, they got back in their car & left! Sorta made me worry about what could happen! I didn't think we should even stop, but Mike felt OK about it. Wierd.

Today I talked on sacrifice - it was only 15 minutes or so, the whole meeting only lasted 1/2 hour! We had visitors from Moscow, Rob & Lisa Wood, who are on their way to Salt Lake! So it was fun.

Things are going fine - Dillion & kids left on Wed, so it's been pretty quiet. The kids miss their kids. I had Luba, our Russian teacher, went shopping with me Friday. On Thursday, she took us to her dacha & we had a nice, interesting day. See Email for more details! We're getting along fine, things are going well. George came yesterday - so soon!

July 30, 1995

This has been a weird week. No mail. On Thursday morning I went with Mike & Albina to talk to the director of school 13. She has no room for the kids! Then Mike asked her about the humanitarian couples - if she could use one! She was excited about THAT! Anyhow, I wanted to go shopping after, but Mike needed the car & all the sudden I just wanted to go home - so I told Vitally - Damoy! He tried to talk to me, but it's frustrating. So I came home & went to bed with a book - I was so discouraged --- with learning Russian, with going anywhere, with getting ANYTHING done! I feel so incompetent! I don't know what to do! Anyway, I feel like a prisoner - must be culture shock hitting. I was really discouraged. Mike tried to talk me out of it, & that helped. I feel so trapped! I'm feeling better today - I know I should be here, but it's sure hard sometimes. Today church consisted of our family & Bro Kim. Then Mike, Brett, Matt, Nick & I took Elder Kim home. Mike dropped us off at the Vlad - we visited with Shirley & George for an hour, then came back. We drove to the ocean & around the city for a while yesterday. I bought 4 loaves of bread, & we've eaten them all! We had a nice outing. It was good to get out.

Nick seems to be doing well with Patty training. He pooped in the toilet and said 'Look! There's some snakes!' Ialmage had taken him. He hasn't had an accident for 2 days. Friday night was Milla's 55th birthday. It was a big whizz ding at an expensive restaurant! It was so hot & humid - my hair just melted! Anyhow, this Boris Schetnek (?) gave me a big smackin kiss in the

check after a toast to women! Then he kissed my hand when we left & said I was charming! I think he was drunk! Boy it's amazing how immodest some of the women are! I was glad to get back home.

September 10, 1995

Well, we went back to the states on August 8, spent 2 days in SLC and went to Idaho for our Nielsenhaven reunion. It was a lot of fun. All the siblings were there and we had a good time. Mike & I were the Sacramento meeting speakers about Russia. Then Mike & I flew to Nauvoo & spent 3 days with Michelle, it was really neat & we were very pleased with the great experience she had there. It was a lot of fun. The next Sunday we spoke at church, and it was really neat to see everyone & I realized how much I loved all those people & missed them! We went over to Ericksons after, & when I went in to see Cindy, she smiled! Joyce said it was the first time Cindy smiled in 2 weeks! She'd been ill, & she died the following Wednesday or Thursday. I went to education week & found out on Friday when I returned. I stayed with Vicki, Deanna, Kande & Karen, it was nice. On Thursday afternoon Mike came down & got me & we went to the MTC & spent the afternoon talking to the humanitarian missionaries who came the same day I did - it was fun Vicki came with me & she said she was impressed. We had a neighborhood party at Sutherland's, it was fun to visit with everyone. Mike left Sat AM, went to Cindy's funeral. Next day I taught a cultural refinement class on - Russia - it was fun & everyone enjoyed it. I spent the next week running around shopping, we came home Sept 4 - it was hard to come back. I love America.

October 15, 1995

I can't believe how bad I've been about writing - I'm finally feeling better about things, but I think I had my major culture shock dip, or whatever. But I think I'm over it, & getting used to life here again.

It's see, not much exciting has happened. EXCEPT I have a maid and I love it! She comes Mon & Thurs for 4-5 hrs. I pay her \$2 an hour. She cleans my bathrooms, kitchen & floors. It is really wonderful to have the help. I think I'll have her come on Wednesdays and iron - I can't seem to keep up on ironing! It's great. I clean house, do laundry, go shopping, & cook meals. That about sums it up!

Nov 11-19, 1995 - Australia!

Wow, we spent a wonderful week in Australia. We left on Sat, flew to Seoul, then on to Sydney, arriving there Sun AM. See my E-mail for the excitement of driving on the wrong side of the road, etc - but the neatest thing was taking Brett to the temple! We went to 3 sessions, & he did great, & I think he enjoyed it. Pres Sorensen interviewed him for the temple & his mission when he came in October. We spent 2 days in the blue mountains, one on horseback.

We left Nick with Shellie Nielson, & he did great. We missed him but it would have been so hard on him! We love Australia, it was great, but I had a hard time for a few days getting back into real life Russia.



December 6, 1995 Nicholas' 3rd Birthday!

Well, I shed a few tears last night, realizing my youngest is no longer a baby, and I won't have any more babies! I feel so old! Nick has brought us so much joy and love, it's incredible - he is so sweet and wonderful. True, he is getting spoiled rotten, but he's so cute! We gave him several presents through out the day and after dinner (chicken fingers I got from the vlad) we gave him some more presents. He especially liked the Jason - Power Ranger stuffed figure. He got some books, a ball & some musical instruments. He's a critic and we love him tons. His favorite thing to do is watch videos, play Batman, & play computer games. I hope he doesn't turn into a pudding brain! About the only time he gets out of the house is to go to church, so ~~from~~ he has a pretty boring life. Brett & I took him outside to play in the snow for a little while & he loved it, even though it was so COLD!

C 5

MY Name is Talmage Williams.

6th grade

I am eleven years old. I live in Vladivostok, Russia. I go to the OREINTAL SCHOOL. I will be here for 3 years. I still wish I were in America. Because I miss my friends, and my family. I live in an apartment, "ACFES", on the 9th floor. I have an American friend on the 10th floor, his name is Jakob. he is 12. I like Russian, I like English, I don't like American or Russian Math, I like to write. I like to write English, I don't like to write Russian, I don't drink tea, my Dad And mom don't smoke or drink beer or tea because it is bad for your body and it is against our religion. I have some Russian friends. Aurthor, and sasha (APTYP HAWA). I have brown hair, blue eyes, and I am an AMERICAN.

TDW


December 21, 1995

Brett received his mission call today, to go to The Romania, Bucharest, mission!! We were in absolute shock - I was sure it would be a Russian mission! And Romanian is latin based, like Spanish! So his Russian study was for naught - unless of course, there are Russians there who are ready for the gospel!! He enters the MTC on February 28, only 3 days after his birthday! When I heard that it came, I looked in the mirror & said "I'm not old enough to have a missionary!!" But really, if Michelle was a boy, she'd be almost done with her mission! And if she was like me, & got married & pregnant, I'd be a grandma by now! Anyway, we're thrilled.

December 23, 1995

We put on a Christmas musical program today at the Musical Institute where we hold church - It was great! We had about 150 non members come! We did a 50 minute program of music & narration, gave colored invitations etc. The missionaries have been doing programs at the schools they teach at, so there were a lot of teachers and students, & a lot of people from work too. Vitally came & brought his wife & baby! It was fun to meet them. The spirit there was great, we had punch & cookies & lots of positive comments. Then as we were cleaning up, the Elders came! Dean Nielson had gone to get them & the plane was late. They were exhausted, but it was WONDERFUL to see them - like angels appearing in our midst! The narrator, Valarie, is a nonmember, a teacher at one of the missionaries schools, who has committed to baptism - he did great. He is a really sweet guy & will be a super member! Now he's in the missionaries hands! After we got home, I was cleaning up & I did something bad to my back - I'm in a lot of pain & I cannot walk. It was a great day!

Christmas 1995

Today has really been a great Christmas. We got up about 8 am and opened presents - Santa did a pretty good job (between the US & Australia). The really neat gifts were the ones the kids gave. I had meant to take everyone shopping, but it just didn't get done. So, Michelle gave all the boys a certificate for: Brett - mission scrapbook, Aaron - voice coaching & accompanying, Matt - blank, Ialmage - piano lessons, Morgan - reading a story, Nick - hugs & kisses. Me - earrings. Brett gave Michelle - a watercolor of Ben's pet Willy, Aaron - his portable CD player with headphones, Matt - a cool watercolor of a cowboy.

Aaron gave us a funny poem, Brett a real funny poem, & Matt one too. The thing that touched me the very most was the present Morgan gave me.

Several weeks ago he went to the store with Michelle, and I told her to give them some money, so she did. He bought something, & had 5,000 R left. He's carried that bell around with him & cherished it, & that's what he gave me! It really touched me, & he was so excited for me to open it!

I gave Mike shirts & a Star Trek game that doesn't work, he gave me a neat koala bear mommy with babies hanging on her! He smuggled it out of Australia. I babies hanging on her! He knew I wanted one! I gave us an oil painting of a street in Vladivostok.

At 2:00 Elder & Sister Burr and the Elders came - one went upstairs with the Kims, Elder Robertson stayed here. The other 2 couples didn't come, they were sick. After dinner, everybody from the Matthews came down & we sang carols. It was so fun. We sang for 2-3 hours, even Hallelujah! It was great. Then we gave the missionaries our packages of American food. & they were so excited. The Elders



were totally blown away - the thing that amazed them the most was the paper vowels! It was so funny. Anyway, it turned out to be the best Christmas! We let Elder Robertson call his family to tell them they could call back, which they did, & he got to talk to them for an hour. On his way home, he told Matt that last Christmas, he taught the discussions & went to bed! So I think they had a nice day.

Last week, I spoke in church about "What did (will) you GIVE for Christmas?" It was a poorly prepared talk, because Mike just asked me the day before, & Matt's talk took 35 min, so I was kind of skipping thru my talk & it hit me - the very most important thing we can do for these people is to bring them the gospel of Jesus Christ, then HE can help them with whatever they need! It was a great feeling, to think that in some small way we are bringing this light to these people. They need so much! And Mike & I had discussed what we could do, & we realized the Christmas program was a gift our whole family (except Vick) was involved in. Especially Michelle! She chose the songs, wrote the narration, taped the programs & invitations, printed, copied & collated everything. Played the piano and sang! So I think it was a Christmas gift from our family. The boys all sang, & Butch played the guitar AND piano for Michelle. It was so cool.

(Jan 21) - By the way, one day I was talking about how hard it is for me to come back to Russia, and Elder Robertson said "Ya I know, it was hard for me to come back from Christmas dinner!"

Sunday January 21, 1995

This is pretty bad, writing in my journal only once a month! This past week has been incredible. I write so much on E mail that I figure that counts as my journal! The kids & I went skiing Sun & I met some Ladies at the Ulad & ended up going with them to an orphanage & being made the one authorized to pick up their stuff that didn't come yet. Also, last Sat. night, Mike's dad had a stroke, & by Tuesday we decided to go home, unless there was a miraculous change we prayed about it & felt that was the thing to do. Early morning we called the US cause Sheri had Emailed that he was doing amazingly better! So we didn't go home, and everyone was extremely disappointed, altho glad that Grandpa was doing better. We just can't believe he can last too much longer.

We really felt like we should be here for Elder Rex Pincgar's visit Thurs Sun, and that was so neat. Mike & I picked them up at the airport so we got to visit with them. I'm afraid I talked way too much, it was so fun to talk to someone new. We had dinner with them, they invited us & paid. Eric joined us & Dean did too. On Friday Mike took them to meetings in the morning & Michelle & I took them around town, then had the Elders & them for dinner. I started stew in the morning & bought batons (bread) at the market, so dinner turned out fine. Ice Cream (yummy American stuff) and cookies finished out the dinner. New Elders!! Elders Kemp & Marrott came on Friday, it will be fun to have them here, but they are a little different (kinda dorky lookin as opposed to the handsome Elder Robertson & cute Elder Burnham. Rude huh...) But Elder Pincgar said they are the Elders meant to be here. So he met with missionaries all day Sat, then came here



for a 4:30 fireside. We ~~didn't~~ had it here because we didn't get the musical institute arranged for - we had 40 here, but only 8 first timers, all from AKOC (2nd & 3rd grad kids), & 2 full time investigators. Valery brought his wife Julia, & she came with him to church, so we were happy about that. We had spaghetti for all 32 of us!

Today right before church, Sis Kim fell and broke her wrist. Mike called me up to look at it, and I totally went blank, but she was conscious in a lot of pain, & she could move her fingers but not her wrist. Her wrist had a hole in it, like a puncture wound, but I couldn't see the bone. Fortunately, Veronica knew where to go, Sis Pinegar had a zip loc & put snow in it. Duh. I didn't even think about shock or anything till after. On the way back from taking the Pinegars to the airport, we stopped & saw her, & she was crying, her hand looked like ~~it~~ it had a poor bandage on it (they said it was a cast tho). Elder Kim said she was "ashamed" maybe he meant embarrassed. Before she went, Elder Pinegar gave her a blessing. What a day. As they left, the Pinegars expressed great appreciation of us & what neat kids we have. She left me with a small gift - a tiny matruska & a scripture that said "By small things are great things accomplished." We both had tears in our eyes when she left. She's a great lady - I was worn out & I'm sure she was too!

We called Wah - Mike's dad was moved to transitional care. He's still in & out, up & down. They're hoping this

transitional care will help him get strong enough
to go home. We're praying the Lord will bless us
to be able to know when we should go.

Well, to catch up - we felt like we should go on the
evening of 1st Feb, so we did. The company let us go in
line of R.R. We arrived on Thursday & spent the weekend
with BT, & Mike Michelle & I were with him when he died
Feb 6. He was so sick & looked so bad, but it sure was hard
for Joyce to let him go. It was so sad. The funeral was really
nice - all the grandkids but Nick sang. I didn't even
take him because he's so rowdy. Mike left the next
Thursday, so he was able to help his mom a lot. I stayed
to get Brett into the MRC ~~on~~ Feb 28. On his 19th birthday
the 25th Centerville 20th ward had a "farewell" for
him & he & I spoke. The place was filled to overflowing.
It was neat. Laura Daines hosted an open house for
him & tons of people came. Also, Morgan turned
8 on Feb 12 & since Mike was still there, we baptized
him Feb 14 on Sheri's birthday. It was neat
I shopped & tried to do everything but I really wasn't
ready - didn't want to come back! Still, Mike was
insistent & having a hard time so I dutifully came
back. It took me 2 or 3 weeks to get un-depressed
about being here! What a baby! It has been so
hard, but I think I can handle it now.
On March 21 we had our first baptisms -
Leonid & Veronica were baptized - our first
Russian members! It was so cool. We were
supposed to have 6 baptisms but the others backed out
they are having doubts but it's better to wait than not be
committed I guess.
In the meanwhile, Dellow's daughter Sarah got engaged at Christmas
and broke it off last week, after invitations, plane tickets, etc!
so today Becky her other daughter Emails to say she's
engaged. An April Fools joke?

April 2nd 1996

Yesterday was my 41st birthday. what a nice day. Michelle & I went shopping & I bought a folk doll, some bread, & met some Americans here - boys & leaders! Scouts. And met the woman who is sponsoring a scout troop here, she said our boys could participate! Cool, I was so excited! AND I bought 10 cases of SKIM milk and it is really good! So I was excited. Mike stopped off after work & bought me a dzel box - a duplicate of one I already have! (I only have 3!!) Poor guy. Then he went to 3 exchanges to get money changed, & they were all closed, so he came home & had one of the kids take him some rubles I'd exchanged! Then he went & spent nearly \$70 on some beautiful roses which all died this morning. He tried so hard, & was so nice to do it! Michelle made me a delicious dinner of pork chops rice broccoli, angel food cake with raspberries & blueberries. (I couldn't find strawberries, it was yummy. My parents called while I was out, so I called them back & had a good visit. My dad is feeling better after a scary experience last week - an infection that mimicked a stroke, almost. It was scary! Mom was really scared. I got nice Emails from mom, Vicki, Calleen, & Judy. I have a great family. I sent an Email saying we'd been transferred to China! Some people really believed me so it was funny. Denny gave me 2 shopping bags, Mike's mom is going to deposit \$100 for me, mom gave me a subscription to Taste Like Home. We went to dinner at The Vlad with Matthews & Nielsons & they gave me a cake & sang "H.B." & the whole restaurant applauded! It was fun & so sweet. Shellie made the cake. She also gave me a box of Caranough's Chocolates - yum.

No mail for a week - Totally just brought some Yea!

Ticks friends are Brigham & Scottie
(Nick said to write that)

April 5, 1998

Wow, how do I catch up on the past two years? I justify myself because I wrote so many e-mails and letters about my life in Russia & since then. I won't attempt to "catch up" but I will make some observations on the past two years -

Sept 1996 - I can't believe I didn't write anything about my daughters wedding - what a beautiful experience that was! I came home from Russia the end of July. Ben came home from his mission to Spain in Aug. & they were married 40 days later in the Salt Lake Temple. It was a totally wonderful & glorious day. Elder Rex Pinigad married them & did a beautiful job. We had a luncheon at the Blauer home, and a beautiful reception at Rick's Creek Chapel. Judy helped me immensely - I stayed with her for 3 months before going back to Russia. It was wonderful experience.

Life in Russia was a great experience to have had. We were so fortunate to be able to visit the HK Temple dedication in May 1996 - it was a glorious experience sitting in the celestial room at the HK Temple while Pres. Hinkley spoke. Mike had a mission reunion with many old companions & president at the Gum Tong Hall. I recognized many of them - I felt like "this is what heaven will be like" to see all those old friends. We left Tick with Shellie Nielson & we ran all over Hong Kong - what a great experience!

In the first of December, we went to Guam. had an absolutely marvelous time! We LOVED snorkeling - even though the first time I tried it I nearly drowned! It was so beautiful there - I love the ocean. We went deep sea fishing (Morgan & I were SICK) went to movies, shopping (COSTCO!) and horseback riding. We saw mushrooms that glowed in the dark!

Christmas 1996 - Michelle & Ben & Aaron came. Aaron went to UHS for his senior year - he was in Madrigal and lived with Rex & Carrie. We had a great time with them.

Feb 12 1997

Morgan's 9th birthday - Mike had a bunch of big whigs from Moscow visiting - so we didn't plan on even seeing him that day - He came home at lunch, took me in our room and said "we're going home." I couldn't believe it! I was very happy - but worried about Mike. "Are you OK? What about the job? Are you being fired - or what?" It was a happy/sad thing - we felt like we were being dumped - Matthews stayed and took over - it was hard to accept. Matthews stayed until Jan 98.

We came back to Utah on Mar 7, after going to the Philippines for a week, packing, then stopping in Hawaii for a week. It was a hectic, crazy, time - lots of work.

When we returned, we didn't know where Mike would be working - or even IF he would be working for US West. I checked with the church, and for a time he thought he might get a job with them --- it was a stressful time, living in a motel & not knowing if we'd be staying in Utah or not. In the meantime, our renters were being awful and not moving out of our house - so we served an eviction notice & that created a lot of hard feelings - it was a mess. We renovated our home with all new floors, paint, driveway steps, shed, fence & laundry room - it's great. Finally Mike got a job similar to his previous job. He is on a team that travels a lot but it doesn't matter where we live. What a relief! He started working again June 1, (we had been paid tho.)

It's been nice to settle into schools & church & friends & family. Judy & I are closer than ever, I think. I miss Joyce & I played with her so much. Joyce & I are still good friends but not as close as we used to be.

In October, Mike & I were called as stake Institute teachers & that has been a great learning experience. I have felt happier and more fulfilled than ever in my life, and very grateful for all my blessings. I feel a great love for all my family. Brett returned home from his mission in Romania/Moldova on March 19. How wonderful to see this beloved son. He is truly a chosen son of God.

Aaron received his mission call on Feb 11. He was called to the Russia Moscow South Mission. I was surprised & a little worried about his reaction, since he hated living in Russia - but he is excited & I think he will make a great missionary.

I really have felt a great change of heart in the past few months. I don't know if it's because I have been studying the Book of Mormon (to teach it), or if it's because I've had a missionary out, or if it's because I'm back in America after living in Russia for 2 years, or a combination of everything, but I have felt such an increase of love especially for my children and my husband - I realize that a lot of my frustration and anger came from me and made relationships worse for me. Anyhow, I feel like I have truly changed and my heart has been softened. I wish I could say it's permanent, but I still feel myself getting frustrated & injured & sorry for myself sometimes - I know it is improving though. I can look at my kids when they are acting up & really look through their behavior & feel how much I love them. I'm starting to be able to do the same with my husband. I love him so much but we have unfortunately developed some negative and hurtful habits in our relationship which leave us both frustrated, hurting, & bewildered. I have always blamed him in the past but am realizing it's a lot my fault too. And I can only change myself so I am really trying, and it is really helping.

SCRIPTURES

Bretts Welcome Home / Aaron's farewell

April 26, 1998

What a beautiful day it was today. I had a brunch for family members before church & it was so fun. About 50 came! Jack Burr, Elder & Sister Morris, Jon & Jamie Marrott, and The Matthews also came. We had so much yummy food.

But Sacrament Meeting was beautiful. Our families practically filled the chapel. Mike Ben Brett Aaron & Matt sang "Ye Elders of Israel" & "Our Savior's Love" for prelude, then sang "I need Thee Every Hour" in their mission languages. It was so beautiful it gave me chills! Ialmage was the youth speaker, Aaron gave a nice talk about doing what's right, and Brett delivered a powerful sermon on the joys of adversity. It was incredible. He labored on that talk for weeks - I would guess 30 or 40 hours. He's a deeply spiritual young man, a deep thinker, and eloquent writer / speaker.

We stayed at church but it was hard because my whole family went back to my house to visit (and eat again!) They were all still here after we got home from the block, and 3 families from the ward came over. After that, Lara Preston & a friend came to visit. (She was in Nauvoo with Michelle & in Brett's group in Romania!) Aaron had a "big" open house last night but not many came. The church is trying to encourage people to not have big party style open houses, ^{on Sunday} so we told everyone we weren't having an open house, then I felt bad cuz nobody came! I really like the old fashioned "everybody goes over after church & visits & eats". In trying to "simplify", it was a lot more work for me & much less satisfying & rewarding. But I'm whining! I find myself saying "Oh, we shoulda done this or that" a lot and I need to repent of that "it's me" attitude. Anyhow, it was still a wonderful meeting - some wonderful sons & daughters.

Speaking of which: Michelle graduated from BYU on Friday May 24! We had a wonderful day with her. I'm so PROUD of her & them. They are doing great. Now she goes to work full time - they're trying to have a baby but no luck so far! It's hard for her - and me!

Last night Jalmage was messing around on the BB hoop - & he fell on his head & had a slight concussion. It was kind of funny because he kept asking the same questions over & over. Mike & Brett gave him a blessing & from then on he began to improve & has been fine. I feel so blessed for everything we have been showered with! Especially my kids. They are wonderful & valiant young men & women! I love them so much and am so grateful for them.

April 23, 1998 Aaron's 19th birthday. Aaron - what can I say about him? He is darling, so cute - handsome, really. He looks so much like Mike at that age - only later, I tell him, because of me mixed in there! He is trying so hard to do what's ~~too~~ right but is still a boy. He comes across a bit comical at times, so it worries me that he must feel inadequate. Possibly his lack of height, tho he says it aint so. His best friend is Brady Bangerter, who's been in South America on his mission nearly 6 months. He misses him a lot & can't wait to get out - but only a few more weeks! I love Aaron a lot - he has always been an easy person to love - very laid back & loving.

Update on other kids - I feel so bad I haven't kept up the tradition of writing about my kids every year on their birthdays - so I'll just mention some things - Michelle has been married for a year and 7 months! She just graduated from BYU in Family Science & has been working for Susan Easton Black and enjoying that. She'll start working full time now as a secretary for the power's program. She was hoping to be able to stay home & work in her field! But when the time is right, she'll be blessed.



She & Ben are so cute together, & they're working so hard! Ben works a Keystone, & is in aviation science at UVSC. They just moved into a different apt & are doing great. Oh, after Mitchell's graduation, we went over to our old house at 146 E 80 N. The people were moving so we went in & I just about bawled - so many wonderful memories! We took pictures in front of the bleeding heart I planted so many years ago. It was so neat. I love my wonderful daughter & her sweet husband.

Brett - oh, what can I say about my little boy in a tall "man's" body? He is so precious to me. He's still my Brett, only better - (It's hard to believe he was such a brat when he was younger!) He helps me, a lot - and not only me but he's sensitive to others' needs. He is so strong spiritually - and so kind. He is still funny/cute - has a great sense of humor & can sing beautifully! He gained a great appreciation for family, home, country, gospel, church, etc - missions are wonderful learning experiences. One not so pleasant thing he acquired in Romania/Moldova was TB - ick. I assume he will have to take medication for 6 months to eradicate it. He has been tired & weak since he got home. He doesn't know where to work or go to school - but hopefully he will get moving on it soon. I really like having him here with me! I'm really not in a rush to have him go -

Matt - what a jewel! Matt is just incredible to me. He already has so many mature traits & attitudes - he will "hit the ground running" as a great missionary. He was in the school play "Crazy for You" & was so darling! He can sing so beautifully - probably the best of all our kids so far! He works after school for Pack's - & at night he



takes care of a man who is a quadriplegic. Plus he takes care of his horse in the meantime! He is a doll. I can always count on his help when I need it - IF his horse! My major concern now is that he really likes a girl - Jen Sanger. She is darling, smart, talented etc etc - but we just don't want him to get serious! There are so many girls who would love to go out with him - he's so cute! 6'2", curly dark blond hair, sings etc & gets straight A's. "Who could ask for anything more?" He's an angel.

Talmage - a typical 14 year old. Boy he wants to be a big guy like his big brothers but is having a hard time because it comes so natural to him to be an obnoxious bratty 14 year old! I do think (hope) he's getting better - he is affectionate to me at times but such an opposite kind of kid at other times! He reminds me so much of Brett at this age. (I keep telling Brett that & he always says "I'm sorry") The thing is, with Brett I could see through it to the wonderful person he really was, & with Talmage, I can. I love Talmage & his annoying actions don't make me seeth with anger like I felt with Brett. I guess I'm growing up! Knowing what a wonderful man Brett turned into, I can feel calm that this truly is a stage & he will grow out of it! He loves to ride his bike - he's a nut! He and Justin are still close friends & I find Justin less annoying. Talmage is doing lots better in school - the 1st term he got an F in English & 2 d's! Eeeek! He's as smart as anyone, but just doesn't believe in homework or in turning in assignments! So it's a struggle right now. But he's a good kid & has native intelligence so I'm confident (& praying) he'll get it straight.



Morgan, my cute freckled face grinning kid. What a sweet young man - who reminds me so much of Aaron. He is getting quite tall & I think he'll be like Brett in height. Well see! He loves playing basketball & is taking piano lessons & is doing quite well. He does quite well in school and is a nice boy - has lots of friends but still hangs out with Bret Bagwell, his best friend. I love him so much but I'm sure he doesn't get all the attention he needs. So I'll try harder.

Nick - my baby. Such a spoiled little angel! He is extremely intelligent - he remembers everything I can imitate accents, voices etc. Brett's taught him a lot of Romanian and it's so cute - he even gets the accent! He has lots of energy, but he spends most of his time playing Sega - he loves it! We put it up last week when he had a nightmare about being in the game and a green monster was chasing him! He is a joy to me & I'm so grateful for him. He loves to play with Brigham Kmetzsch - they've been in pre-school together & he loves preschool. I'm so glad he's going to kindergarten - he needs the mental stimulation & social skills. He acts so much older than anyone else his age - he's so smart & his vocabulary is incredible!

How blessed I am & what a grateful woman I am - I can truly say "I am a Joyful Mother of Children"

I'm grateful for my many many blessings - I wish I could've felt this in my earlier years when I was so frustrated & upset so often - but the rewards are great.

Aaron enters the MTC



May 13 1998

Wow, my second son entered the MTC today. What a great & emotional experience! What a fine, handsome missionary he will be. Last night, Pres Pitt set him apart & blessed him to be humble & remember that he is the sum of all the blessings & work of other people - that the Lord had blessed him with many advantages & much preparation, that since he's already familiar with the country, language & people that the Lord would use him in many leadership opportunities if he works hard & does what He should. There were many wonderful things said to Aaron & I pray he will work hard & live up to the expectations the Lord (and we) have for him.

One thing Pres Pitt said was that he had to build on the great start Brett has made & do better even, and Brett did a great job. "And this poor guy," pointing to Nick, "will be excited before he even goes!" It was cute. He said many nice things about our family (just because he wants Brett to marry his daughter Audi!).

Speaking of which, I had a brainstorm long before Brett came home of having Brett Aaron & Matt go on a date with Audi, Mary, & Mariam, each a year younger than the boys. They went out last Friday and had a great time - What cute kids. The boys came home & told us all about it! Brett said it was the BEST date he's ever had. The next night he went out with Kristen Turville, & he had a fun time but he kept thinking of Audi! She'd always been a friend but he said "something changed" that night. Now he thinks about her & dreams about her. He feels like she is a great girl & would be a wonderful wife! He's been looking up what the prophets say on choosing a wife! He says he intends to follow this "prompting" or hand that's guiding him until either he decides 1) she is the ONE or 2) she ISNT the one! Like Pres Kimball said: He's "old enough to go steady!!!"

Will see. An August wedding??


September 20, 1998

Oh boy- it's been a long time since I last wrote, and a lot has happened! Brett & Audi broke up - well, she just told him she thought he was a great guy BUT, even tho she tried, there is no hope for "US". It really tore Brett up, but he is one faithful young man, & he got over it! July 24 He went for a ride on Sutherland's ATV's with their niece, Nicki Anderson and "BAM!" "fell in love & kissed her!" (2nd date - HIS VERY FIRST KISS!!) He's still head over heels & she seems to feel the same. He (and we) is holding his breath for her to take & hopefully PASS her nursing boards this Friday. I think they'll get engaged soon after that. Well see!

Arron left Salt Lake for Moscow on July 13. It was great to see him - I love him so much. He is going to be a great missionary. He could hardly wait to get on the plane. He seems to be doing well. Today the bishop called Mike & I into his office & chatted about home teaching etc - THEN dropped a bomb - he called me to be the RS President! I was shocked because I felt like we were "safe" from ward jobs as long as we were inst. at teachers. The Bishop talked to Pres Pitt & they both think I can do BOTH jobs! Except Mike will do all the teaching - I'll just be there for support. He said he went to the temple 3 times over this & always got the same answer - me! I really was surprised. Interestingly, when we went to a stake preside tonight, I remarked to Mike that I had dreamed about Sister Schmidt! That's all I remembered. Later, I realized she's the Stake RS Pres! Maybe there was more to my dream than I can remember - obviously! Anyhow, I need to decide on counselors, so we hopefully can get to the temple in the next couple of days. What a day! ☺

October 18, 1998

Today I was sustained and set apart as RS President. Bishop Janner gave me a beautiful blessing about being the right person for this time. I conducted RS & this is going to be a fun calling! Lots to do & I REALLY need to get organized! I hope and pray I can do those things the Lord wants me to do in this job! Diana Messinger Education couns, Susan Bender Hml, Jeanne Daines sec.

Dec 6 1998 Sunday

Nicholas' 6th birthday. It is incredible to me that my baby can be that old! He is an incredible child. He had a birthday party with nine friends - we went to ~~Open~~ Peter Pijer Pizzeria & had a riot! He really enjoyed it & I was so grateful that Brett & Nicki came & helped me out!

Nicholas has taught himself to read, his vocabulary nearly matches mine, & he is so funny! He has many "little reveal" movies memorized & he often says the lines! He is a very social kid - he LOVES to play with Brigham Kmetzsch - especially his Nintendo video game! He loves video games & would play them 7/24 if I let him! He loves to watch videos & cartoons too. He loves his mom & I love him.

On Friday, the 4th, we (Mike Ben & Michelle & I) flew to Dallas/Ft. Worth to attend the wedding of Alyana Keseryva & Michael Payne. We had a great reunion with them & the Morris & Babcocks. Michelle & I got to help Alyana get ready - it was special! We met Jim & Colleen & went through a session with them before the wedding - they drove up from Houston (4 hours) to see us. It was a beautiful day. We drove around Dallas, then took a nap before the reception. It was fun, & I saw a woman I knew from high school - Gail Muskin! It was so fun.


April 4, 1999

Wow - I need to catch up again! We had a lovely Christmas except Nick cried because "is that ALL?" He didn't get everything on his list! Morgan's main present, a remote control car, didn't work but we finally got it exchanged (in APRIL) Brett went to Yuma to propose to Nicki Andersson, she said No Well maybe. By Valentine's Day she had made up her mind & they got engaged for real, with a beautiful diamond & everything. Brett attended the U for 1 semester but was hit with major - mono - actually we aren't sure when he had it but it was a really hard 3 or 4 months for him. The emotional ups & downs of his relationship didn't help his physical health, either. She's a wonderful girl but there have been a few blowups - I really don't think she's going to be an easy person to live with. I foresee a lot of difficulties, especially since Brett is so much like me in not wanting conflicts. I sure hope it works out well for them - she has so many wonderful qualities. May 29 is the date they've set. I'll be relieved when it's all over. She passed her boards Jan 20, on her birthday. She's now working at LDS hospital & I think she's enjoying it. Brett didn't do anything Dec - March but lay around & make me ^{him} crazy. He finally started working for Convergis & is enjoying it - He will be starting at SECC in May. He's got a long way to go & unfortunately doesn't yet know where he's going.

Michelle is still not pregnant. Very hard for her & I am surprised how (grandma) baby hungry I am! She's enjoying her job but Ben has at least another year of school so they're trying not to worry about it.

Aaron got mono about a month ago & was pretty sick but the doctor says he can go back to work. We just heard they've called a mission president for Vladivostok & he's in Moscow! Aaron's talked to him & I wrote an email to him.

Matt is a bit (a BIG bit) worrisome to us. He has been



dating Brooke Hinders exclusively for nearly a year. He's also pulled away from us - even worse than Brett! He is so hard on my heart - it just hurts. Mike & I met with him a couple of months ago & you'd have thought he hated us - he was so snarling & insolent & disrespectful. Talk about HURT. W.O. Things are a little better but we still sort of get the feeling he is just biding his time till he's ~~outta~~ outta here! Mike tries the only thing he knows - lectures & pressure & blind obedience but Matt's learned not to argue, just listen & respond the way he thinks Mike wants him to, although he just goes about doing whatever he wants to. It's scary to me but I can't seem to influence Mike at all to be kinder & gentler. Well actually, he has changed but he still pretty much demands everything to be his way, altho he doesn't yell & get physical anymore. In fact, it REALLY worries me that Talmage is getting into the same mode Matt's in - & that really scares me. Talmage's grades have been FAILING "F's" in English & Science. We've tried everything but I personally feel that grounding & lectures aren't the way, that somehow this is Talmage's only form of control. I feel that the desire to change has to come from inside him. His last report card was As Bs & one D in English. Never thought I'd be happy with THAT!

Talmage is growing so fast - he's about 5'9" or 10" now - getting zits & facial hair. He sings really well - another one! but didn't make made because of poor preparation. I was so embarrassed for him. I just hope & THINK he learned a lesson from that experience. He has a girlfriend - Kirsten Jensen - that he's been forbidden to see or talk to but I don't think he obeys that injunction. I wish we had a more open, relaxed, loving, understanding relationship with our kids but that's just not Mike's way & I feel wicked if I try to help Mike see it's being way to demanding &



unrealistic. So I just close my eyes & pray we'll all make it thru these times.

March 13-18 Matt was the male lead in "Annie Get Your Gun." Wow. He was fantastic. He was so natural and his voice was perfect. I think (and others also said) he was the best male lead they remember seeing at VHS. I went every night & just loved it. The Morris' & Burs came up to see it & we had a nice visit with them. My mom even came down to see it! Mike's mom did too. It was a lot of fun & I was sad to see it end. Morgan & Salmage went every night & Morgan said how sad he was to see it end. I only took Nick once, which was fine with me but I think he kinda wanted to go again. Anyhow, Matt was so great as Frank Butler & I was so proud of him! It was hard for Brooke because she really wanted the lead, but she ended up in a minor part & that was hard for her to deal with. Just a week after the play, Matt went to NYC for 5 days & had a great time.

Matt brought me a snow globe of NYC for my birthday; what a surprise! It was so cool. and when Morgan was looking at it he dropped & broke it. I was bawling & he was really bawling - he felt so bad it was sweet. I told him he'd have to be a madrigal & go to NYC to get me a new one!

I had a lovely birthday. Colleen, Mom Linda Vicki & Judy called. Mike gave me a Michael Ballam CD, book about Marjorie Hinkley (love it) and a \$300 spending spree. (Guilt because he got himself a \$400 palm pilot electronic planner for his birthday.) Tarsa Daines, my RS secretary, brought me a Tostitos doughnut Yum - she knows I love em! Cheryl Grothen called & Ruth Ann Davis brought a mum - they're my VT. Roline gave me a rose bush, Julie Shorten brought cookies, the bishop dropped off a card, Aaron & Linda & Mom sent cards. Mike & I went to the



temple & did sealings. He went & taught institute & I stayed home & read! Brett brought me some dead flowers, (April Fools!) then gave me a pretty cut flower arrangement from him, Michelle & Jalmage. Nicki came over & gave me some lotion & scrapbook paper. That was nice. Mike's mom called me & gave me \$100. (My mom had given me a "magic cloth" earlier in the year. I love it.) I'm not very happy with myself right now. When Aaron left, I told him I'd be less woman when he came home. I now am FATTER than I've EVER been in my life! I weight more now (over 200 lbs) than I ever did even at 9 mo pregnant! The sad thing is, I look like I could pop out a baby any minute - oh I wish that's why I'm fat instead of just being fat!! I exercised 5 days a week for 6 weeks & gained weight & inches! So I rebelled & I haven't exercised at all for a month. But I've been having trouble sleeping so I really do need to start again. I hate it though, I plan my whole life around exercise! I think I want to do "Eat to Be Lean" but I just HATE having to think about it all the time!! I just want to go along the path of least resistance (EASIEST way to cook, etc.) Mike's fat too, but he weighs about the same as I do, so he's only 20 lbs overweight, whereas I'm 50 or 60 lbs over! WAY too much! I think I'll ask Mike for a blessing to help me stick to exercise & healthy eating. I wish our relationship was better. I feel like I am so easily offended (is he a selfish brat or is it me?) Is he rude or am I too sensitive? I feel like he rules & as long as I obey, everything is hunky dory but when I start resisting or resenting, things go haywire & neither one of us is happy. So is it me or him?? Am I the only one who needs to be humble, long suffering, meek, obedient & kind?

Yet in trying to establish my rights, I cause
Contention. Hmm - an old refrain with me, I am
afraid. One of the problems is that 1 - we aren't
spending enough time together as a couple (busy-
tired - busy - tired....) and 2) I need to get into
the scriptures more. Reading the BoM 2-15 min a
day does NOT count as scripture study. I know when
I'm into the scriptures I'm much calmer, happier
less offended & probably less offensive! (See Feb 12, '97)

I'm 44 years old now. I wish I wasn't so tired & lazy.
I want to improve in 1) Physical Health (Yes lose
weight & get to a size 12. That's my goal. 2) Scripture
Study. I've got to take the time to study! Since
I've stopped teaching institute, I've stopped
studying. I wish I could be released totally
because I feel so superficial at institute. With
Mike as the only teacher, we've attracted a lot of
LMS but lost a lot of our old standby girls.
I have a hard time going out nights & feel like
I'm away from home too much. I love to stay
home & just veg! I have PS mtg every Wed night
Institute every Thurs & go out on Friday - I
just want to stay home but that hurts Mike's
feelings. Another problem is that he goes to bed
late, I get up early so I'm dead by 10 - so we
don't go to bed together very often. I still
have problems there too. Hmm - what will
the coming year bring? I'll try to do better
in keeping a journal. Conference was great
and at the very end Pres Hinkley announced they
are going to rebuild the Nauvoo temple! We
all cried & are so excited. It was a great
conference. I hope I can be better this
coming 6 months!

THE END of this JOURNAL
APRIL 5, 1999